NDAY, FEBRUARY 5, b

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lated to "air corridors and

routes" through Israeli airs-

pace, the chief executive of

and a contract of the contract of

on aviation and trade accords ted to the basic concepts" of the proposed trade agreement as called for integration of the proposed trade agreement as called for integrating the proposed trade agreement agre Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, but had not yet bridged some gaps.

and will resume negotiations particularly in the areas of next week on remaining dif-ferences in approach to goods preferential trade. 'There are some problems ences." and difficulties, but they are to be given preferential treatonly natural when two sides ment, official sources said are negotiating for favour-The two sides meanwhile able terms," said the source advanced towards cooperawithout elaboration, but tion in civil aviatin after adding: "We are hopeful that Israel agreed to accept some an accord could be concluded of the Jordanian demands re-

500n." According to Jordanian officials, the Kingdom feels that Jordanian products should enjoy preferential treatment in Israel above a level that Israeli goods will Jordanian and Israeli trade have in Jordan, given the negotiators met in Deir Alla enormous economic disparity between the Israeli and Jordanian economies and taxation and customs tariff

structures. But the Israeli side is holding out, arguing that meeting the Jordanian demands would mean an elimination of anonymity, stressed that any incentive for the King-

tensely to protect own interests," said another official.

"One should not read anything more than that into the negotiations and the differ-Meanwhile, Nader Dahe-

bi, chief execurive officer of Royal Jordanian, was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that RJ and Israel's El Al airlines had reached an agreement on joint packages to fly tourists to Jordan and Israel.

Quoted by Petra, Mr. Dahabi said a committee made up of representatives from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the Royal Jordanian Air Force and RJ were studying the draft agreements, particularly in relation to altitudes that Israel is ready to offer flights to and from Jordan through

Israeli airspace. Mr. Dahabi confirmed that the main difference was over

(Continued on page 7)

An independent Arab political daily, عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية ،الراي،

Egypt, Syria, Gulf aim for closer ties

CAIRO (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and six Gulf Arab states met bere Sunday aimed at reaching a six Gulf Arab states met nere sunday aimed at reaching a compromise on two draft accords concerning security and economic cooperation, Egyptian officials said. Along with Egypt and Syria the Six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oatar, Bahrain and Oman — form the Damascus declaration grouping of Arab states which joined the U.S.-led coalitinn against fraq in 1991. The ministers were to try to find a compromise between an Egyptian plan focused on developing economic cooperation and a GCC plan putting security guarantees first, the officials said. The declaration emissioned the greating of a military force that included Emission. envisinned the creation of a military force that included Egyptian, Syrian and Gulf soldiers to defend the oil-rich regim so it would not have to depend on Western help, as it did to free Kuwaii from Iraqi occupation. But the pact has never been carried out. The Gulf states have, instead, signed defence pacts with the United States and other Western nations and tried to improve their own

Israel, Oman discuss prospects for peace

Thursday's summit in Cairo between the leaders of Israel, Jordan.

Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) aimed at

rescuing the Middle East peace process. Israeli Prime Minister Yirzhak Rabin paid an unprecedented visit to Oman in late

AMMAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1995, RAMADAN 6, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israeli legislators visit Jordan Israeli legislators visit Jordan Crown Prince urges Jordanian-Israeli contacts at all Interior of the control of the con

Several metally pened (Knesser), several parties, pain a strate political parties, pain a sist to Jordan on Sunday as part of ongoing efforts to develop bilateral relations after the two countries signed a ser the two countries signed a develop bilateral relations are the two countries signed a peace treaty in October.

The lawmakers, who were

Comman by a Royal flown to Amman by a Royal Comment flows to Amman by a residence from Tel Aviv, were received by His to care a law (orbidding). Majesty sing ... Al Hashemiyeh Palace. Majesty King Hussein at the

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Al Srour, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mobammad, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, several members of cabinet and parliament, and cabinet officials.

The Israeli delegation was headed by Knesset Speaker Shevach Weiss of the Labour Party. Jordan Television said the team bad 30 members, hut international agencies

aid they were 28. Before the King received the visitors, His Royal High-

Rabin's cabinet on Sunday

refused to meet Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO)

demands to allow tens of

thousands of Palestinians

back to jobs in Israel,

ing of the two-week closure

In its weekly session, the

announcing only a minor eas-

of the West Bank and Gaza.

and doctors into Israel and

permit the import of Palesti-

nian agricultural goods.
Deputy Palestinian Econo-

mics Minister Samir Huleileh

said the renewed export of

produce to Israel would bring

the impoverished Palesti-

nians a mucb-needed daily

"Obviously, we are dis-appointed," said PLO Chair-

man Yasser Arafat's spokes-

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan and

Israel made progress in work-

ing out a trade agreement

during a meeting last week

infusion of \$1 milbon.

a Jan. 22 bombing by extrem-

but the Palestinians are demanding Israel completely lift the closure, imposed and

Sunday.

lets and a civilian.

Israel ignores PLO plea,

PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak helping peace... it's not going

Kingdom to live up to the letter and spirit of the peace treaty and called for Jordanian-Israeli dialogue on all levels and in all spheres to develop cooperation.

The Crown Prince called for Jordanian-Israeli relations based on "peaceful cohabitation" in three stages: getting to know one another, through meetings, exchange of information, personal contacts; the delimitation of the areas and the priorities for joint action and the formation of committees or other bodies charged with the responsibility of preparing the ground for the third stage, which will consist of joint activities in the areas agreed upon."

The successful transition from peace-making to peacebuilding requires states-manship and joint effort," the Crown Prince said. 'Our... ability to deliver durable peace and prosperity to future generations is still dependent on our willingness for compromise and sacri-

The Crown Prince cautioned against "the em-

the decision. "This is not

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat

are scheduled to meet Thurs-

day in the Gaza Strip to

discuss any further easing of

the closure and how to imple-

ment the next phase of the

Mr. Kanafani said he

boped the closure would be

lifted at Thursday's meeting

at the Erez crossing point

between Israel and the auton-

Israeli Communications

Minister Sbulamit Aloni told

reporters Mr. Rabin would

discuss the closure when be

Speaking after the weekly Israeli cabinet meeting, Ms.

Aloni said the closure would

continue "but there will be

some exceptions for buma-

Mr. Arafat pressed Mr. Rabin to end the closure

when they met in Cairo last

The closure threw more

Thursday during on Arab-

Jordan, Israel make progress

Israel-PLO accord.

omous Gaza Strip.

met Mr. Arafat.

nitarian reasons."

Israeli summit.

to help combat violence."

ters or opponents bad hoped or feared," he said. "Even if this might be true, no apology should be made for peace. Energies must be devoted to accelerate that transition from peace-making to peace-

The Crown Prince noted that Jordanian and Israeli negotiators were working on detailed agreements on cooperation in various sectors and emphasised that such accords were "essential for translating the spirit of the treaty of peace between our countries into a concrete and warm

reality between our peoples." The Crown Prince said Jordan and Israel sbould seek to promote security and coop-eration at the bilateral level on the basis of the regional dimension. "In today's globalised world, no nation or group of nations can achieve prospenty and security in isolation from their neigh-

bours," he pointed out. Noting that the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty outlines mechanisms to develop a partnership for peace" through dialogue and cooperation, the Crown Prince

of work and deepened pover-

ty particularly in the Gaza

Strip where unemployment

runs at around 40 per cent.

Netanya led Mr. Rabin to set

total separation from the

Palestinians as a long-term

goal and a study is underway

on how best to achieve it.

the possibility of a permanent separation between Israel

and Palestinian-populated

Israeli left wing's ultimate de-

sire to withdraw from the

West Bank, the separation

policy runs counter to the

autonomy accord which left

the Palestinians heavily de-

pendent on income from more than 100,000 labourers

During the cabinet meeting, Environment Minister
Yossi Sarid reportedly proposed making the closure
permanent and paying the
Palestinians a billion shekels

(Continued on page 7)

While consistent with the

territories.

in Israel.

Sunday's decision left open

The Jan. 22 bombing near

for "dialogue between the two peoples at all levels, public and private, between institutions, governmental and non-governmental, and be-tween individuals."

"It should involve parliamentarians, political parties, religions bodies, cultural activities, educationalists, intellectuals, welfare associations, (and) economic and commercial enterprises," be said.

The Crown Prince cited regional economic summits, including the economic conference to be beld in Amman in October. The proposed Middle East reginnal development bank and organisation for economic cooperation and development in the Middle East, the regional working group on the multilateral phase of the peace process. European Union-Mediterranean partnership, the Jordan Rift Valley development plan and free trade areas between Jordan and Israel as the key institutions that are being evolved to support the implementa-

tion of joint agreements.

(Continued on page 7)

Shimon Shamir maybe named Jordan envoy

newspaper reported Sunday. Tel Aviv University Pro-

expert. Mr. Shamir, who worked in Cairo from 1988-1990 before leaving the diplomatic service, told AFP he had been contacted by Mr. Peres. "If Rabin and Peres can agree, I would be prepared to

A foreign ministry spokesman said no decision had

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Shi-mon Shamir, former ambassador to Egypt, is expected to be appointed Israel's first ambassador to Jordan, a

fessor Shamir, an Orientalist, bas been picked out by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as "compromise candidate". the Yediot Aharonot newspaper said. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Peres bave failed to agree on an envoy since the peace treaty was signed with Jordan on Oct. 26. Mr. Peres wanted a career diplomat in Amman while Mr. Rabin favoured a former Mossad intelligence

accept the post. But for the moment it is all speculation.

Arab League head to keeps Palestinians under siege visit Jordan in March Cairo conference decides on

ign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti announced here relations with Arab Gulf Sunday that Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid will visit Jordan early next montb.

Speaking to reporters following a meeting with Dr. Abdul Meguid, Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan, the current president of the Arab League Council, was seeking to activate the role of the Arab League and its various institutions as a means of inducing joint Arab action.

The coming Arab League meeting will discuss the creation of an Arab court of justice and the Arab League's general secretariat will submit a proposed statute for the court which would settle disputes between Arab countries, Mr. Kabariti said.

The Arab League session, he added, will discuss the amendment of the Arab League Charter and the subject of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Jordan bas repeatedly sought the creation of the Arab court of justice and the amendment of the charter whereby decisions will be taken on the strength of majority rather than unanimous voting as the case is at present

Mr. Kabariti said he discussed all these issues with Dr. Abdul Meguid during the meeting, which was attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nayef Al Qadi.

In an interview with Petra, Mr. Kabariti Sunday expressed confidence in achieving conciliation among Arab countries, underlining that no one party has monopoly over this concilianon.

Mr. Kabaniti said Arab conciliation was contingent on various factors, with the most important among them being high-level coordination and confidence-building measures on the way to settling differences. "We in Jordan bave called

and worked for developing such a mecbanism and are following meetings with all the brethren with the hope that the current crisis facing the Arab World would be averted in the interest of the future Arab generations,

action to help displaced The minister said Jordan's

> countries are based on a legacy of "confidence, affection, respect and appreciation. All this, he said, will belp bring these relations to the aspired levels again.

The minister said the unprecedented Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli meeting held in Cairo on Thursday was an attempt to resolve problems impeding progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. "The issue needs continuous follow-up and Arab support and it was apparent that Egypt was serious in having this stand," be said, expressing support for Egypt's efforts in

this regard. Describing Jordanian-Egyptian relations as brotberly, the minister said the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee will meet in the last week of March.

On Saturday, Mr. Kabarin attended a meeting with his Egyptian and Israeli counterparts. The meeting called for action to help Palestinians displaced by the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict to return home, as a next step forward in the peace process.

The ministers from Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority said after meeting bere that the return of the refugees would be "a step towards settling the consequences of the Israeli occupation and achieving a just and global peace." A joint statement said Jor-

dan and Egypt had "promised to supply the Palesn-nians with what data on the subject they might possess" and urged "other countries hosting displaced persons as well as specialised international organisations" to do itkewise. The three parties express-

ed the hope that a forthcoming four-party meeting with Israel "suggested the end of February" would lead to "concrete results permitting the effective return of displaced Palestinians."

Saturday's meeting grouped Mr. Kabariti with Egyptian Foreign Minister

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein and His Rnyal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday receive Israeli parliament members at the (Petra photo)

Iryani briefs King on Yemeni-Saudi meetings

Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Irvani, who briefed him on the progress of nego-tiations aimed at settling the Yemeni-Saudi border dis-

Dr. Iryani arrived in Amman from Syria with a message for the King from Yeme-ni President Ali Abdullab Szieh. covering "ways to further cement Yemeni-Jordanian ties, Arab and regional issues as well as the latest international developments," the Jordan News

Agency, Petra, said. Dr. Iryani briefed King Hussein on "the progress of negotiations between the Yemeni and Saudi governments" aimed at resolving their border dispute, it said. In January last year King

Hussein brokered a reconciliation part between Sanaa and the leaders of former South Yemen.

It was not immediately clear whether Dr. Iryani, who left for home later Sunday, was seeking Jordan's mediation in the Yemeni-Saudi border dispute.

Jordan was Dr. Iryani's third stop after Egypt and Syria, which both mediated between Rivadh and Sanaa to reduce tension on the border. According to diplomats in Sanaa, Yemen is seeking international support for a mechanism to monitor its disputed border with Saudi Arabia and ease tension between the two countries.

They said Yemen had revived an idea to form a joint military committee of Yemeni and Saudi chiefs of staff and Egyptian and Syrian rep-resentatives, first aired by official Yemeni sources last month but received coolly by Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Iryani on Saturday bniefed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the dis-pute, before flying to Damascus on a similar mission.

In a departure statement Dr. Iryani expressed his by Jordan to unify Arab ranks and coordinate the stands of Arab countries on issues of concern to the Arab

Dr. Iryani voiced Yemen's readiness to extend every possible support to such Jordanian initiatives.

"I delivered to His Majesty King Hussein a message from his brotber President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the distinguished bilateral relations and developments in the reon them," Dr. Iryani said. He added that the message also dealt with the Yemeni-Saudi negotiations taking place in the Saudi capital of

Riyadh. He said the Riyadh talks were a positive sign nn the way to solving the border dispute, stressing Yemen's keenness to end differences with Saudi Arabia.

"Resolving the border dispute and returning the Yemeni-Saudi relations back to normal should be based on the Taif agreement signed between the two countries 60 years ago and on the basis of international law," Dr. Iryani told Petra, adding that the Riyadh talks would decide whether to hold a Yemenifuture.

The Yemeni minister said Jordan and Yemen agreed in bold a ministerial meeting in Amman next month to prepare for the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Joint Committee later this

He said this was agreed at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Khaled Al Karaki, who was at the airport later in the day to see off Dr. Iryani.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israei expecting 90,000 immigrants

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel expects to receive 90 in immigrants in 1995, compared with some 80,000 last

Home

killed nine naval shipyard workers and virtually destroyed. The minister had told the Libyan oil tanker in the port of Valletta, a spokesmanting the national oil company said here Saturday. Fight the issue was shipyard workers were also injured, two of them critically in the explosion on board the tanker Oum el Farong, which hat part of the girt in the explosion on board the tanker Oum el Farong, with an actual to Malta later to investigate. The causes of the explosion and the remaining 21 to Malta later to investigate. The causes of the explosion are still not known," said the Libyan official, within were still at the minister had told the previous session in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was sold to hotels and response and to make the cause of the explosion are still not known, said the Libyan official, within the previous session in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the part of the girt in the previous was the part of the girt in the part of the gi

Brown e

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

MMAN - U.S. Commore Secretary of State
Record Brown will be in
ledge for a few hours on
Wednesday, meeting with 版 Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Vinister Sharif Zeid Ben Sakei and several other embers of the Cabinet as all as representatives of se private sector.

The meetings will be held the Royal Palace in man, where Mr. Brown saying him are scheduled agrive Wednesday mornzim Taba, Egypt. They deave for Kuwait in the lordan is expected 10

sim its commitment to

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Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

1 Lesser God" **PRAYER TIMES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh. Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

WFP offices and residences early on Thursday. Mr. Bennett said the WFP legal department was to lnok into the compensation

The gunmen said earlier

they were demanding \$420,000 which they alleged

was owed to Somalis by the WFP. They sealed off the

16 U.N. workers

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali gunmen freed 16 Un-

ited Nations aid workers late

on Saturday after blockading

them in a Mogadishu com-

pound for three days, U.N. officials said on Sunday.

Food Programme (WFP)

compound ended peaceful-

lv." U.N. spokesman George

The aid workers, all fore-

peacekeepers and several

fortified port and airport in readiness for their final eva-

cuation from Somalia this

National Alliance of warlord

Mohammad Farah Aideed

the gunmen. Somati sources

about 30, claimed that they

represented Somali port security men who had work-

ed for WFP in 1992 at the

height of the Somali

emergency. They demanded

additional compensation for

the services of the security

men." Mr. Bennett said.

"The gunmen, numbering

said.

Members of the Somali

Bennett told reporters.

The siege on the World

Some of those released flew to neighbouring Kenya. Others continued negotiations with the gunmer

igners, had been prevented from joining 8,000 U.N. Mr. Bennett said the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNhundred civilian staff who OSOM) was not involved in last week withdrew to the the negotiations to free the WFP workers, but had been kept informed of developments. Aid workers complain that LINOSOM has done little to save civilians although that was their original misnegotiated their release with

Mogadishu was fairly quiet Sunday as looters carried the last movable items from the downtown compound ahandoned on Wednesday by U.N. troops and civilian staff as they pul-

Heavily-armed "technic-- armed vehicles of the rival Somali factions - were out in hig numbers.

U.S. helped supply arms that a landmark Arab-Israeli summit in Cairo marked a

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (ClAi secretly helped a Chilean arms dealer sell sophisticated bombs to Iraq in the mid-1980s, the New York Times reported in its Sunday editions.

The newspaper, quoting a former U.S. National Security Council official, said the weapons sales took place while President Ronald Reagan's administration was professing neutrality in the war then raging between Iraq and Iran.

The newspaper report was based on a court affidavit by Howard Teicher, who worked for the National Security Council from 1982 to 1987 as a main adviser on the Middle

Mr. Teicher's affidavit, filed last week, includes serious allegations on the question of whether U.S. intelligence officials played a direct and active role in Iraq's military buildup, the newspaper

It said the affidavit may rekindle the dehate over

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) -

Michael and Suraya must be

among the most pampered

Bengali tigers in the world:

they live like royalty with the

family of a wealthy husiness-

man in an exclusive district of

The couple, both three-

year-olds, are spoilt from

morning till night. They have

their teeth brushed, their hair

shampooed, and a fullaby

and soft words to coax them

into drinking their milk at

Fuad Abul decided to add

two tigers to their household

Now they would not part with Michael and Suraya for the world. "It would be like

asking someone to sell his

children. I could not let go of

my two tiger children," Mr.

Outside the sumptuous

family villa, the tigers also

have all mod cons in an iron-

fenced enclosure equipped

The five-member family of

bed-time.

two years ago.

Abul told AFP.

to Iraq, ex-official says whether the Reagan and Bush administrations' efforts to provide military assistance to Iraq inadvertently created the military powerhouse that invaded Kuwait in 1990 and

started the Gulf war. The allegations of CIA involvement were placed in the court record in a Miami conspiracy case against two executives of Teledyne in Los Angeles.

Teledyne has pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges growing out of allegations that it violated federal export laws hy shipping 130 tonnes of the metal zirconium to Chile, where it was used to help assemble the bombs.

The wealthy Chilean businessman charged in the case, Carlos Cardoen, has acknowledged selling arms to Iraq, but maintains that he cannot be charged in an American courtroom because the United States secretly approved sales.

heved the CIA "authorised, approved and assisted" Mr. Cardoen's efforts.

Bengali tigers pampered in Kuwait

with air conditioning, a hea-

ter and a luxury bathroom

with all kinds of shampoos.

wife of Mr. Abul, besides

caring for ber three children,

behaves just like a mother

Michael every morning and

brush their teeth, after clean-

ing up the room," she said.

pooed hn! my lovely daugh-

ter Suraya likes it very

imported from England and

home-cooked meat.

The tigers only drink milk

Mr. Ahul said Suraya was

"Her mother is the star

given to him as a gift from a

Bahraini friend. At the time,

she was only a few days old.

tiger in an Italian circus," he said proudly. "But I bought Michael from the Isle of

Wight zoo in England a few

months after I got his mate."

close the price.

Mr. Abul refused to dis-

Michael hates being sham-

"I hathe Suraya and

with the tigers too.

Umm Mohammad, the



A Palestinian couple argues with an Israeli soldier as they try to enter Jerusalem from the Bethlehem roadblock on Sunday. The Israeli government extended the closure of the

West Bank and the Gaza Strip which was imposed two weeks ago after 21 people died in a suicide bombing (AFP

Crunch week ahead for Mideast peace

NICOSIA (AFP) — A crunch week for Middle East peace lies ahead to test claims that a landmark Arab-Israeli turning point in the battered

peace process.
The leaders of Israel, Jordan, Egypt and that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) organised a series of high-level meetings this week to boost flagging peace talks when they met in Cairo on Thursday.

As a result Egypt confidently declared the Arab-Israeli peace process was hack on Track.

Israel and the PLO are to return to the negotiating table in Cairo on Monday in an attempt to organise longdelayed elections to a Palestinian autonomy council on the West Bank. Israel froze the talks after

21 people were killed in a double suicide bombing by Palestinian militants near Netanya on January 22.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat

and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will then meet at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Thursday to hammer out problems dogging the extension of Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Teicher said he be-And foreign ministers from the four summit participants will meet in Washington for follow-up talks next Sunday

with U.S. Secretary of State

Warren Chrisopher.
Meanwhile, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown travels to Egypt this week for an unprecedented meeting with Arabs and Israelis on trade and investment in a bid to give economie support to

the peace process.
"Basically it's the economic counterpart of the Cairo meeting," said Ian Kalicki, a Commerce Department counsel, on the Feh. 8 meeting between the U.S., Jordan, Egypt and the Palesti-nians in the Red Sea resort of

Mr. Rabin hailed the Cairo summit as a "turning point" for peace which would continue to "act in the direction of peace in the Middle East."

He singled out for praise a condemnation from the four leaders of militant violence. Israeli public confidence in peace has been rocked by a series of suicide bombings which has left 56 people dead in 10 months.

"It's the first time that Israel and the chairman of the autonomous authority Yasser Arafat together condemn the terror supported by the Syrians," Mr. Rabin told state radio.

However, the Palestinians Nashashibi. warned that the problem of ment from Mr. Rabin to lift 1993. violence would not simply

disappear. Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafa-ni said it was "impossible" for the Palestinians to give guarantees to rein in terror-

The guarantees we can look for is to stop causes leading to violence, the causes being not only with the Palestinian self-rule authority," Mr. Kanafani said.

Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mnbarak and King Hussein failed to make headway on other key issues plaguing Israeli-PLO negotiations. No firm date was set for a

redeployment of Israeli troops on the West Bank away from Palestinian builtup areas, already delayed by eight mouths,

Nor did Israel make any promises to halt the expansion of settlements in the West Bank or Jerusalem which has angered Palestinians and led to warnings of a new Palestinian uprising.

The PLO said the issue of settlements would top the agenda of the Rabin-Arafat meeting. "It is the main obstacle and must remain on the agenda until the problem is settled," said Finance Minister Mohammad Zuhdi.

And there was no commit-

the two-week closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, although the Israeli cabinet was to debate Sunday on whether to allow some Palestinians into Israel for "humanitarian reasons."

The closure has thrown some 50,000 Palestinians out of work in areas already hard hit hy unemployment and economic problems.

Mr. Mubarak left Israeli and PLO leaders in no doubt of the importance of resolving such issues in their upcoming talks, and the price the region could pay for fai-

"Terrorism will be the only substitute if the peace (process) fails," he warned. "The collapse of the Israeli-PLO talks will provoke a number of problems politically, economically, socially and for security," he said Friday.

The Cairo summit was also hamstrung in efforts to unblock the most troublesome track of the peace process that between Israel and Syria.

Damascus ignored an open invitation to the gathering and was scathing about its prospects, dismissing it as just another attempt "to escape the crisis" since the "doomed" Palestinian autonomy accords were signed in

Four drown in Cairo drain

CAIRO (AFP) — Four people drowned in the drainage system of a Cairo suburh Saturday, police said. A municipal worker went down a drainage hole in the Shubra e-Kheima district to carry out repairs and was swept away by effluent. Alarmed when the man failed to reappear, in colleague went down the bole to look for him but was also swept away. His shonting alerted four passers-by, who went to save him but were also overcome by the effluent Rescuers managed to save two of them and recovered four bodies. The survivors said that once they entered the drain they were "suffocated by such a disgusting stench; that they "fainted" and fell into the effinent,

undergoing repairs at the time of the blast, which was head over Valletta. It shattered windows in surrounding house and started a fire which firefighters rapidly hrought under

iragi foreign minister to visit Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamma Sayed Al Sahhaf will visit Ankara Monday, the Turkin

news agency Anatolia reported, quoting his Turita counterpart Murat Karayalcin. "It is important to resime ties at ministerial level." Mr. Karayalcin told Anatolia

without elaborating. He was speaking in London at the end

of a meeting with his British, German. French and halen

counterparts. Turkey supports a lifting of the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasions

Kuwait. Ankara says the sanctions have cost the Turks

economy some \$20 billion. Turkey's trade with Iraq stool at around \$3 billion a year before the Gulf crisis.

Pakistan manpower to Guif declines

ABU DHABI (AP) — Pakistan, a leading supplied of manpower to Gulf states, has witnessed a 55 per cent diop in its annual labour exports to the region over-the parties of the region over-the parties of the parties of th decade, a Pakistani official has said: The number Pakistani's leaving their homeland to work in sike belonging to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and dropped from 200,000 annually in the early 1980s to about 90,000 presently, said Mohammad Saeed Mehdi, Mi Mehdi, who heads a government agency that deals with manpower exports, made his comments during a visit to Abu Dhabi, Commenting on the decline, Mr. Mehdi said most of the early 1980s development projects in the Golf have been completed. Moreover, with most Gulf countries I Rana Husseini experiencing budget deficits, some have cut back develop mental expenditure, resulting in a fall in expatriate labour demand. There are about eight million expatriates in the GCC member states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrais, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, approximate ly one million of whom are Pakistanis, according a Pakistani consulates. The Pakistani government has penewed efforts to enlarge the number of Pakistanis working overseas. Higher manpower exports help in solving domes tic unemployment problems and, through remittances from ahroad, add to the foreign exchange earnings. Mr. Mehd plans to take his mission to drum up a bigger market for Pakistani labourers to Brunei, Malaysia, South Konta-Cyprus and Lebanon. He already has been to Sandi Arabi

Iran builds own tanks, personnel carriers

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has started building its own battle tanks and amphibious armoured personnel carriers, its official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday IRNA said the tank was an improved version of Russian made tanks seized by Iranian forces during the 1980-1988 war with Iraq. It did not specify which model the Iran tank was hased on. The amphibious armoured person carrier, called Barraq, could carry personnel or equipment at sea or on land, IRNA said. Barraq is the name of the winged horse on which the Prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Jerusalem and then ascended to heaves The Revolutionary Guards Corps Saturday took delivery of the first hatch of tanks and armoured personnel carries. IRNA said. Corps Commander Mohsen Rezaei said all the components used in the troop carrier matched international standards. Israel is the only other country in the Middle East to be building its own tank, the Merkava. Egypt i planning to assemble M-1A1 Ahrams tanks under licence from the U.S. firm General Dynamics.

3 die in road

in the Jordan Times

ANAN - Three people cided in a road acciamolving a car and a p early Saturday on the newly built bighway, Public Citilly Department

(PSD) reports said. lowing to the report. ankar, which occur-. of the Khour bridge. is wibuted by traffic to slippery roads ansed the car driver

are control. the report said that the colon occurred when the or of the car, Ibrahim ks control of his vehi-Swerved to the left side the road and struck an

coming truck driven by brahim S. was accompaby another passenger, thed by police as Qas-A. who was also killed

the accident. three victims were

to the Mafraq govhospital, where were declared dead on

leanwhile, one person

JORDAN TELEVISION

. Cocottes Minutes Que Le Miclluer Gagne Association Bein Fasteurs News In French Carndi De Notes
..... Ramadan in the World Magazine Zero One Street Hawk 20:60 Street Hawk 20:45 The Miraculous Cosmos of the By Way of the Stars News in English 22-20 Fall from Grac 23-59 Feature film "Children of Fall from Grace

05:03 06:22	
	Dhuhr
	'Asr
17:15	Maghreb
18:36	*isha
CH	URCHES

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Am Anglican Charch Tel. 630851. Tet. 628543. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

Amman 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. 824.328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tcl. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 7717St.

Tet. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology. It will be cold with skies cloudy

to partly cloudy. Ramfall is ex-pected at intervals with winds westerly moderate to active. In

active and whites rough.	
Min /Max. temp.	
Agaba	
Deserts	3
Jordan Valley	8

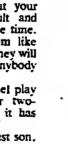
place is very difficult and dangerous at the same time. But if you treat them like your own children... they will never harm you or anybody else," he said.

Suraya and Michael play every day with our twomonth-old cat... and it has never been harmed."

Ahmad, the youngest son, aged 13, acknowledges, however, that "as they grow up, it's becoming very difficult for us to play with them.'

know come to visit my place birthday," he added.

ers in her mane.



"People whom I don't

just to see the tigers... we usually give them posters we printed for them on their last The posters show Suraya

with a ribbon and pink flow-Mr. Ahul and his wife have a menagerie of animals, including a deer and a peacock, not to mention several cats and dogs. They say they feel

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11. Aqaba 18 Humrdis

readings: Amman 97 per cent. Aqaba 55 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Ali Al Oman 272032

775336

. 637660

AMMAN:

Dr. Youset Rashed

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim Firas pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy

Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy

Al Salam pharmacy

Yacoub pharmacy ... Shmcisani pharmacy

Najib pharmacy ...

ZAROA:

Dr. Jamil Tarif ... Dr. Fayez Dabbas



Umm Mohammad, a rich Kuwaiti bousewife, brushing the teeth of Michael, a three-year-old

relaxed with animals, espe- Ahul said.

cially the tigers.

They really love us, but not for our money. After all. they don't know how much we have in the bank," Mr.

Amabler pourmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Control ... 637111 Crol Defence Department 661111

Jordan Strangly Authoris

Electric Power

Civil Defence Immediate

Highway Police
Traffic Police

Prattic Poince

Prattic Service, Department

Hotel Complaints

Complaints
Amman Municipality
Complaints
Telephone Information

Birod Bank

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN:

ZAROA:

TREID:

815615

He criticised the government for not doing enough for animals.

"We only have one medic-

RJ Hight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Talestine, Simesani 66417114
Shanesani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 669137
Al-Ahi, Abdali 660127737
Al-Ahi, Abdali 669127737
Al-Ahi, Abdali 669127737
Al-Ahi, Abdali 669127737
Al-Ahi, Abdali 671111710173
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111720
Army, Marka 80111115

Army, Marka 891611/15 Oucen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155

Zarqa Covt. Hospital (00)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (00)983323

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

Princess Basma Hospital

Greek Cathoise Hospital The Al Nafees Hospital

6474417

..., 1021275555

Akilch Maternity, J. Amn.

centre to take care of animals. It's not wellequipped so most of the medicine Michael and Suraya need we get from outside the

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Oucen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200. 5, where it should always be veri-

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

16:50 Cairo (RJ) 17:00 New York Amsterdam (RJ)

Jeddah [RJ]
Damascus [RJ]
Dhahran [RJ]

Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

New Delhi (RJ)

..... Berrut (RJ) Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

ARRIVALS

(Terminal 1)

Flights

Benghali tiger in her home in Kuwait City

Other Flights (Terminai 2)

Cairo (MS)
Cairo (MS)
Muscat, Ahu Dhabi (GF)
Hudaideh (IY)
Kiev (6U) 23:10

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) **Flights** (Terminal 1)

95:45 Beirut (RJ) 19:45 ... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) 12:20 Frankfurt, London (RJ) Cairo (RJ) Abu Dhabi (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Istanbul (TK1

Beirut (ME) ... Cairo (MS) ain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) Sanaa (IY) Kiev (6U) 15:30 Dubai (EK)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday Arr. Damaseus 5:00 p.m. every Monday 7:30 a.m. every Sunday 5:00 p.m. every Smort

MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per k

Banana (Mukammar) Cabbage Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) 160 / 30 8502500 2807 180 260 / 180 Grape Fruit Lemon Marrow (large) Marrow (small) 280 / 180 340 / 200 326 / 200 326 / 200 320 / 200 320 / 220 320 / 220 1200 / 500 1000 / 500 330 / 200 Onion (dry) ..

WHAT'S GO Film entitled "Jules Et Jim Centre at 7:00 p.m.

PLA Ray in Arabic) entitled "Yo

Royal Cultural Centre at 9 EXHIBIT

Rank distribution of works by Qasi Bank Complex Gallery. showing another exhibition lather of the works of Betha at Darat Al Funun. Al the entitled "Phase II-Doors din artist Ghada Dahdaleh a Arab artists.

Iducational works depicting Ethibition of works by Ha

national airline will reopen routes that have been closed

due to political and economic

considerations in the past. In

this respect, RJ will reopen

routes to Belgrade and

Bucharest and will also open

a new route to Osaka, in

Japan, in May, and the Am-

RJ will soon increase its

Amman-Singapore flights to

three from two at present, Amman-New York flights to

six instead of five and Am-

man Canada flights to three

Concerning the privatisa-tion of RJ, he said that the

British consultancy firm Pear

had suhmitted its report to a

committee charged with con-

ducting the privatisation pro-

cess, calling for the trans-formation of the airline into a

public shareholding company owned by the government for

two years, after which local

and non-Jordanian investors

will be allowed to acquire

firm's report also recom-

mended that the national air-

lines capital be increased.

that the Gateway Hotel and

the free shops at the airport

he sold to ensure liquidity for

the airline and that the airline

be operated on commercial

The British consultancy

instead of two per week.

man-Alexandria route.

RJ's Board of Directors

endorses ambitious plan

for fleet modernisation

ment on capital lease, to get a replacement for the TriStar

RJ is also about to finalise

a feasibility study on the

prospect of operating small-

size planes, searing between

30 to 60 passengers, to he used for domestic flights be-

tween Amman and Aqaba

and between Queen Alia In-

ternational Airport and Mar-

ka Airport, a move which will

also allow the airline to oper-

ate twice daily flights be-

tween Amman and Agaba

instead of one at present, said

Mr. Dahahi who expressed

hope that this programme could be introduced early in

the coming summer.
Mr. Dahabi noted that

small size planes could also

be used for flights to Damas-cus. Beirui, Sharm Al Sheikh

in Sinai, Cairo and Al Ghar-

daqah and on flights where

smaller numbers of passen-

gers, up to 60, are booked for

Furthermore, RJ has now

decided to purchase one 320

Airbus plane to be used on

short and medium-range

flights and the airline was

expected to receive the new

plane in February of next year when RJ will put two

Boeing 727 planes out of ser-

vice, continued Mr. Dahahi.

IN BRIE Minister, MP settle dispute in House

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

¹9 90,000 immig_{rant} israel expects to receive stery air Tzaban said Sandis the former Soviet Union several former Soviet Services of the cent rise for immigration of the control of the cent rise for immigration of the cent rise former Soviet Union several former Soviet Union s AMMAN - A dispute between Minister of Supply Adel Qudah and Parliament member Fawaz Zoubi stemming from accusations and recriminations traded in a Parliament session in the past month over supply materials was defused during a Lower House session Sunday. Mr. Zoubi had accused the

Mioistry of Supply of announcing that it had received a gift of 50 tonnes of inker blast in Male ince from Egypt while in fact, he said, it received 150 tonnes, and said the ministry Libyan commission of inquivalent caused an explosion what caused an explosion of workers and virtually dead any said here. Said here Said here said here said here tanker Oum el Fangarently caused by a said the Libyan official would take place. The base the libyan official would take place. The base time of the base the libyan official would take place. sold the gift to hotels and restaurants and failed to distribute any part of it to the needy citizens.

The minister had told the House in the previous sessions, when the issue was raised, that part of the gift was sold to hotels and res-Seld the Libyan official and office would take place. The take lime of the blast, which keeps the control of the blast, which keeps the control of the blast wh tantants and individual. citizens and the remaining 21 tonnes were still at the ministime of the orasi, which act windows in surrounding frefighters rapidly brough try's warehouses.



Adel Qudah

The minister had said that the ministry's law does not allow it to distribute the gift to needy families. The minister also said that

Mr. Zonhi was persisting in his stand in a bid to throw suspicion on the ministry's activities and offend its dignity. Therefore, the minister said that the government and the House should refer the whole matter to the public prosecutor and that the government sboold sne the depu-



Fawaz Zoubi

In reaction, deputy Zonbi told a local daily Sunday, before the House session, that be would demand from the House to withdraw confidence in the minister of supp-

At the outset of Sunday's session, Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour addressed the government and the deputies, stressing that Mr. Zouhi or any other deputy have the right to raise any question which they believe would be in the interest of the-

neral public and to shed light on any violation thet might be committed by the executive authority, in accordance with the Constitution and Parliament regulations.

At that, the minister said that his decision to refer the matter to the public prosecutor was aimed at enabling Parliament to have access to all details and all information in this case, noting that the public prosecutor can decide whether any ministry official had abused his authority in handling public funds.

Mr. Qudah stressed that hy
making the demand, he had

not meant to cause any offence to Mr. Zoubi or any other deputy. He said he apologises if the move was interpreted as an offence because the executive authority was keen on maintaining close cooperation with and not to cause offence to the House or its members.

On hearing this reply, Mr. Zoubi said he would consider

Queen holds iftar banquet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor held an iftar hanquet Sunday at Raghadan Palace for members of the Royal Family and the wives of government offi-

Earlier Sunday, the Queen had participated in a treeplanting ceremony at the Applied Science University to mark the Arbour Day. The Applied Science University. established in 1991, offers more than 30 specialities, some of which are the first to be taught in the Arah World. Dr. Abdullah Al Abbadi,

president of the university. presented the Queen with a silver oak tree model produced at the university. The Queen planted an oak and a pine tree before touring the University Queen Noor visited two

pharmacology laboratories. the new athletic centre which, upon completion in June, will be the largest in the Middle East, and the Department of Engineering and Architecture.
The Queen spoke with the

students and faculty members, who demonstrated various scientific experiments and exhibited their architectural plans and models. She was particularly impressed with the university's computer simulations of architectural designs and inquired about future plans to link up with the Internet, 2 worldwide network of com-

Queen Noor, accompanied by Princess Alia Ai Faisal, was received by the minister of higher education, the chairman and the members of the Board of Trustees and the

deans of the university.

Al al Bayt

University

inaugurated

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

MAFRAQ — The Mafraq-

based Al al Bayt University

will he formally opened

Monday at a ceremony

held under Royal patron-

A total of 240 local and

450 non-Arab Muslim stu-

dents are currently enrolled

at the Al al Bayt University

for the first academic year

1994-95, studying at the

arts, science, economy and

administrative science,

Arabic and Sbaria and Isla-

mic Law faculties, accord-

ing to a university official

He said that in addition

to these faculties, the uni-

versity runs institutes for

studies in Islamic

architecture, astronomy

on the eve of the event,

officially

tions with the manufacturers, Referring to new routes for basis to increase profits, Mr. aimed at reaching an agree-RJ Mr. Dahabi said that the Jordan, Israel today start direct postal service

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - Jordan and

AMMAN 1J.T.1 — The Board of Directors of Royal

Jordanian (RJ) the national

airline, has endorsed an

amhitious plan for the mod-

emisation of the airline's fleet. RJ President and Chief

Executive Officer Nader

RI board's plan entails the

equisition of modern, long-

range planes which are

needed for the modernisation

project, he said. Currently RJ owns 17 planes of which

14 are for passengers and

three for freight, said Mr.

Dahabi, adding that 11

planes are on lease to RJ with

purchase option at the end

of the issue: five TriStar

planes, which will be fully owned by RJ in two years'

time, four 310 Airhus and

two 320 Airbus, which will

become the property of the

national airline by the year

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency,

Petra, that the rest of the

planes are leased to RJ on

operational basis, which

means that the planes will

return to the possession of

the manufacturing company

upon the termination of the

Mr. Dahabi said that RJ is

currently holding negotia-

Dahabi announced Sunday.

Israel launch direct postal services between them today, three months after they signed a peace treaty that normalised relations and opened the door for close cooperation.

Jordan and Israel opened direct phone services on Aug. 8, two weeks after the two countries signed the Washington Deelaration, which accelerated their peace negotiations and culminated in the October peace treaty.
The postal services will

include letters as well as parcels, but will be limited to air mail through Cyprus in the initial phase, said Sadi Al Akour, a senior official of the Post and Communications Ministry.

"There will he no overland mail in the first phase as agreed upon hy the two sides," Mr. Akour told the Jordan Times. "All mail will be flown to Cyprus from where it will be sent

to Israel and Jordan.' Jordan and Israel have not reached a civil aviation agreement yet (see story on page one). Once such an accord is reached, mail will be flown directly to each

Mithgal Abu Heza, director of postal services, said postal charges for airmail to Israel would be 240

10 grammes or part thereof. Different tariffs will apply for parcels. For the moment, Jordanian mail to the occupied

and 120 fils per every extra

West Bank and the Palestinian autonomous territory of Gaza and Jericho will also: be routed through

As such, the Jordan-Israel service is expected to be dominated by mail between Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Jordan rather than Israel and the Kingdom.

Mr. Ahu Heza said he expected mail to take at least two days to reach destinations in Israel and Jor-

Mr. Ahu Heza noted that direct postal services between Jordan and the Palestinian territories could become operative after the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho establishes its own postal authorities.

Agreements signed between Jordan and the PNA last month call for direct postal services between the Kingdom and the Palestinian territories, hut the accord will be effective on a date to be agreed upon hy the two parties - meaning when the PNA sets up the relevant facilities on its side to receive and dispatch

Jordan and the Palestifils for the first 10 grammes nian territories would use

the King Hussein Bridge

across the River Jordan for

tutes a crossing between

the territories of the

the postal services.

As and when the Kingdom and Israel reach an agreement on overland transfer of mail, the Jordan Valley Bridge (old Sheikh Hussein Bridge) in the north is expected to be used. That access consti-

> Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel. The King Hussein Bridge is seen as a ctossing be-tween Jordanian and

Palestinian territories. The "mumtaz" (express courier) service, which Jordan operates to dozens of countries, will not be applicable to Israel at this point, Mr. Akour said.

"We need to have special agreements herween the two sides for the mumtaz mail," he said.

Under the Jordan-PNA accord on cooperation in postal and communications services signed on Jan. 26, Jordan will he the focal point for receiving from and dispatching mail to the occupied territories.

The PNA will use the Queen Alia International Airport and the Royal Jordanian airline for mail originating in and destined to the autonomous territor-

Brown expected in Aqaba for brief talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - U.S. Commerce Secretary of State Ronald Brown will be in Jordan for a few hours on Wednesday, meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and several other members of the Cahinet as well as representatives of the private sector.

The meetings will be held at the Royal Palace in Aqaba, where Mr. Brown and a delegation accompanying him are scheduled to arrive Wednesday morning from Taba, Egypt. They will leave for Kuwait in the afternoon

Jordan is expected to reaffirm its commitment to free market economy and facilitate trade hy removing protective barriers in a gradual manner that would ensure that the Kiogdom's local industries are not burt through unfair competition.

The Kingdom will also seek American official encouragement for imports from Jordan and to secure preferential treatment for Jordanian products io the

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN -- Three people

were killed in a road acci-

dent involving a car and a

pickup early Saturday

morning oo the newly built

Mafraq highway, Public

Security Department

According to the report,

the accident, which occur-red near the Khour bridge,

was attributed by traffic

officials to slippery roads

that caused the car driver

The report said that the

eccident occurred when the

driver of the car, Ibrahim

S., lost control of his vehi-

cle, swerved to the left side

of the road and struck an

oncoming truck driven by

Ibrahim S. was accompa-

nied by another passenger,

identified by police as Qas-

sem A., who was also killed

All three victims were rushed to the Mafraq gov-

ernmeot hospital, where

they were declared dead on

(PSD) reports said.

to lose control.

Hussein M.

in the accident.

The U.S. is the largest single exporter to Jordan, accounting for about \$300 million of the Kingdom's imports during 1994 and less than \$10 million in ex-

Also expected to be discussed during the Aqaba meeting are preparations for a conference to be held in Amman in October as a follow-up to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held in Casahlanca, Morocco, late

In Taha, Mr. Brown and the delegation, which will include chief executives of at least 10 American companies, will attend a meeting, beginning on Tuesday, of officials and husinessmen from Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian territor-

The Taba meeting is hilled as an effort to enhance regional cooperation as well as explore means to increase American trade with the region's countries and a reflection of "the commit-ment of the government and the private sector to the peace process."

The Jordanian delegation

was killed and 17 were in-

jured when a public bus

3 die in road accident

ports said.

to the meeting is expected to be headed by Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Ahul Ragheb and will also include representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of In-

"Our goals of economic cooperation and trade development are integral to that process," Mr. Brown was quoted as saying in a press release issued by the Department of Commerce this week. "To build lasting peace and stability, we must ensure the region has a strong economic founda-

Mr. Brown visited Jordan in late 1993 and said the Department of Commerce was seriously engaged in efforts to encourage the American private sector to do husiness with and in the Kingdom in trade as well as joint ventures.

Another theme during that visit was a call for the lifting of the secondary and tertiary aspects of the Arah economic boycott of Israel so that American firms could do husiness with Arab countries which have been boycotting them because of their trade links

Removing trade barriers and methods of implementing hilateral and multilateral trade agree-ments are expected to be the key theme for the Taha meeting, which will also offer an opportunity for the private sectors of the U.S. and the region's countries to discuss prospects for

While in the area, Mr. Brown will also chair the third meeding of the U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Commission, which "encourages joint projects between high-technology industries in the U.S. and Israel and promotes commercially oriented scientific exhanges between the universities and research institutes of the two countries."

Mr. Brown and the delegation accompanying him will visit Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) "to discuss ways to increase economic viability and create jobs in the U.S. and throughout the region, according to the Commerce Department.

Minister pledges to address poverty, unemployment

Prince Ra'd chairs

municipality talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief article 8 of the law on the Chamberlain Prince Ra'd bandicapped which calls on

Ben Zeid Sunday chaired a the parties concerned to

roads.

Jordan Times Tel 667171

slipped off the road and rolled over oo the Amman-Qadissieh road, PSD re-The accident was also attributed to slippery roads caused by the rain. The deceased was identified hy police as Yakoub

Mousa (30). This is the third reported accident involving public and private buses since the beginning of this year. In the meantime, a 33-year-old man from Zarqa was killed Saturday when a stone crusher fell on his head. PSD reports said. The owner of the stone

crusher told police that the victim, Najhi Mohammad, was doing maiotenance work on his stone crusher when "the chain holding the stone crusher suddenly broke and fell on Najhi's

The victim was rushed to the Zarqa government hos-pital but died on the way. This is the second workrelated death in two days and the fifth in the past

Meanwhile, one person

Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Bank Complex Gallery.

French Cultural Centre.

International Hotel in Agaba.

Arab artists.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* Film entitled "Jules Et Jim" at the French Cultural

Play (in Arabic) entitled "You Are Not Yourself" at the

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing

☆ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also

showing another exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy.

* Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al

Basha at Darat Al Funum. Also showing another exhibi-

tion entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jorda-

nian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary

Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Social Development Salwa Al Masri Sunday said her ministry will direct special attention to addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment in order to minimise their effects on the soci-

Speaking at a press conference, Mrs. Masri said the ministry has plans to increase the monthly payments made by the National Aid Fund (NAF) from JD 50 to JD 60. and to encourage physical and vocational training projects, in addition to supporting self-help projects and enhancing the social security

Mrs. Masri said a special committee has recently been formed to discuss the welfare societies' law with a view to making it consistent with the social changes and enabling it to cope with the social prob-

The ministry will speed up work on enforcing the childhood law and initiating dia-logue between the public and the decision-makers with the aim of identifying children's needs, particularly those of the disadvantaged children,

Chamberlain Prince Ra'd

meeting at the Greater Am-

man Municipality, attended

by Minister of Public Works

and Housing Abdul Razzaq

Ensour and Amman Mayor

Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Prince Ra'd discussed with

Dr. Ensour and Dr. Ahbadi

the requirements for con-

structions for the handicap-

ped including buildings, en-

trances, lanes and health

facilities. Prioce Ra'd stres-

sed the need for applying

Mrs. Masri stressed the importance of training and re-

habilitation of handicapped children and called for absorbing them in productive Mrs. Masri said it was time

for assessing NAF work 10 years after its establishment. She disclosed the ministry's plans to reconsider NAF activities and plans with a view to enabling it to work effective-ly. She noted that her ministry will draw up a geographic map of Jordan, including the necessary data on each region, and the existing governmental and nongovernmental bodies concerned with community development.

On the World Summit for Social Development, which will be held in Copenhagen. Mrs. Masri said a national committee has finalised a working paper, including Jordan's views on the subject. The paper covers three major topics, namely poverty reduction, increasing the number of labour-intensive projects and social integration of the disadvantaged

facilitate the movement of

the haodicapped in cities

through the development of

special designs for build-

ings. Dr. Abbadi said the

Greater Amman Munici-

pality had embarked on

several measures designed

to facilitate the movement

of the handicapped on most

road juoctions which have

been recently expanded, in

addition to the newly huilt

and space, together with two centres, one for languages and one for computer training. His Majesty King Hussein announced plans for

the establishment of Al al Bayt University in August 1992 when he said that the new institution would be a gift from Jordan to the Arah and Islamic Nation. King Hussein entrusted His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan with chairing the new university's constituent assembly which includes elite scholars from Arab and Islamic coun-

University President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit told the Jordan Times in a recent interview that although the university will aim at drawing together Muslim students from all Islamic countries. the primary language of re-search and instruction at Al al Bayt University will be Arabic.

According to a law for establishing the new higher educational institution, Al al Bayt Uoiversity aims at serving Islamic communities and the human society in general by all possible means.

The law says that Al al Bayt is an independent international, Islamic and scientific establishment governed by a Royal Commission chaired by Prince Hassan. To mark the inaugura-

tion, the Ministry of Post and Communications announced Suoday that it will issue a new set of commemorative stamps. The postal stamps will be of 80, 125 and 200 fils denominations and can be bought from all post offices as of

Markets 'abound' with produce; exports continue to Gulf, Lebanon

the apparent increase in the consumption of vegetables and fruits during the holy month of Ramadan, Jordan is continuing its export programmes and is selling between 600 and 1,000 tonnes of agricultural products daily 10 the traditional markets in the Gulf states and Lebanon, according to Agriculture Marketing Organisation (AMO) Director General Salem Lawzi.

Dr. Lawzi said that the Jordanian markets are continually supplied with vegetables and fruit and their prices Sunday were lower than those in the past week in view of the ahundant produc-

Referring to the poultry meat, Dr. Lawzi said that the slaughter house in Duleil, near Zarqa, is supplying sufficient quantities to the domestic markets, adding that there was no shortage of poultry meat in Jordan and that its price is fixed by the Ministry of Supply.

At the same time AMO

AMMAN (Petra) - Despite has decided to import oranges from Lebanon to meet the extra demand on this commodity in the local markets. He said that according to an agreement reached with the Lebanese authorities. Jordan will import 1,000 tonnes of Lebanese oranges during the current season.

> Dr. Lawzi said that the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality, decided to run three open air sougs (markets) in Amman suhurhs in order to facilitate buying and supplying more amounts of vegetables and fruits to the market during Ramadan.

The three markets, which will open on Monday, are located on Jabal Nuzha hv Independence Street, Muqablein, opposite Crown Hotel and Ahu Nuseir, opposite the Recreational and Entertainment Park, according to Dr. Lawzi.

At these markets, he said, farmers sell their products directly to the consumers for at least 20 per cent lower than the regular market prices.

Dr. Lawzi explained that the farmers at the open air markets will not pay a 10 per cent tax on their sales to the Amman Municipality and 30 per cent to the wholesale merchants, and so they can sell at lower prices.

He said hoth the consumers and the farmers are bound to henefil from the open air markets.

Dr. Lawzi pointed out that a committee made up of memhers from the municipality and the ministries of agriculture and supply has been set up to monitor the huying and selling operations in these three markets, noting that AMO is studying the prospect of opening other open air markets in other suburbs of the capital.

These teams will be conducting regular inspection offer their products for sale at

visits and will not allow any person other than farmers to these sougs, said Dr. Lawzi. adding that the farmers will not be charged any fees on

Mr. Aurayalcin told Ag * 25 Speaking in London are. mish. German, French and LITTOITS 2 lifting of the

nister to visit Turk

ag: Foreign Minister Mole.

St. Ankara Monday the le

reported quoting his is

after its August 1990 mg. sanctions have cost the I-Turkey's trade with Iran airo drain people drowned in the die pure Saturday, police & pur a drainage hole in the S OU. TEDELLY STUD MS SHEET in the man failed to reappe

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Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the ☆ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra

Strong vote for Jospin raises Socialist chances

PARIS (AFP) - A strong vote for former Education Minister Lionel Jospin as the Socialist candidate in French presidential elections increased his party's chances Sunday as an opinion poll showed the electorate is highly volatile with more than two-thirds of voters unde-

Mr. Jospin's elear victory over party First Secretary Henri Emmanuelli with nearly 66 per cent of the vote in a Socialist primary restored unity to the party and raised morale after a trail of humiliation that began with its rout in March, 1993 legislative elections at the hands of the conservatives.

The clear result "has swept away the quarrels and the cliques" that had riven the party, said 57-yer-old Jospin, calling on it "to rally for an offensive" against conservative favourite Edouard Balladur, the prime minister.

For his part, Mr. Emmanuelli, who at one time said he would resign as party chief if he lost the vote, declared Sunday be would stay on to campaign for Mr. Jospin, known as the "Mr. Clean" of

Voter

apathy

marks

election

Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK (R) — Kyrgyz-stan voted Sunday in its first

elections since independence

to a new twin-chamber par-

hament set up to replace the

Soviet legislature thrown out

last year by President Askar

Akayev for blocking his re-

Polls opened at 7 a.m. (0200 GMT) and closed at 8

p.m. (1500 GMT). Prelimin-

ary results are expected Mnn-

Early voting was sluggish,

with just 10 per cent of the

electorate turning out in the

first four hours, the central

Around 1,000 candidates

are standing for the 35-seat

Legislative Assembly, a full-

time lawmaking body, and

the 70-seat People's Assem-

bly, which will meet twice a

Early voters at School 24 in

Bishkek pored over two bal-

lots listing 30 candidates, in-

cluding academics, journal-

ists, husinessmen and

One middle-aged voter

Zholdashkbek Zhandayev.

said he had vnted for a

businessman standing for the

me, but he is a manufacturer

and Kyrgyzstan needs con-

sumer goods," he said.
"I didn't know anynne

standing for the Legislative

Assembly so I just made a

More than a dozen parties

are participating - with the Communists the largest with

40 candidates. But parties

have out up less than a fifth

of the total runners, leaving

most voters to make a rough

chnice on the basis of name,

mid-morning and told repor-

ters vnters faced thugh

choices because parties had

not yet huilt a wide social

He urged voters to turn out

in runnffs on Feb. 19 tn make

sure the necessary 50 per cent participation is achieved to

'Withnut dnuht this is

going to be a transitional

parliament because I am sure

that we are still not grown up

enough to have a professional

parliament," he added.
The 50-year-old physicist-

turned-president has led this

mountain state of 4.5 million

on the Chinese frantier

through ambitious market re-

forms since independence in

But, in a scene reminiscent

of former Snviet leader

Mikhail Gorbachev, he was

remained of the reforms' so-

cial cost when an old lady

berated him that she was not

getting her pension and could

Election observers touring

democratie held in Central

not make ends meet.

make the elections valid.

President Akayev voted

age nr professinn.

hlind choice," he added.

"Î don't know his program-

People's Assembly.

Election Commission said.

but it is nothing compared with what is at stake... the future of our country and the future of our people," said Mr. Emmanuelli, 49, adding that he would respect the Mr. Jospin, a conviction

politician from a teaching background, is from the left of the party but came in with the support of the centre-

On Sunday he vowed to force Mr. Balladur, who is trying to stay aloof from the rangh-and-tumble of the hustings, into campaigning and scoffed at his technocrat origins. The Socialist candidate, a

talented dehater, pledged to "dehunk" the prime minis-ter's "immobile" record as prime minister. "Mr. Balladur wants us to contemplate the opinion polls and then to be appointed to the Elysee (presidential palace), butnot even God could do this," said Mr. Jospin to an ovation.

Official results proclaimed at a special party congress Sunday said Mr. Jospin got 52,250 votes, or 65.85 per cent of the total, compared with Emmanuelli's 27,095

fierce winter storm roared into the northeastern United

States Saturday, dumping up

to 16 inches (40-cm) of snaw

and wreaking havoc on travel as airports closed and roads

were glazed with sheets of

"This is clearly the biggest

storm of the season in a lot of

places," said Meteorologist

Jim Candor of Accu-Weather

Inc. of State College, Penn-

a relatively mild start to win-

ter in the U.S. east, also

ushered in high winds and

freezing temperatures and

thousands of air passengers

were stranded either at home

Travel snafus were les-,

sened because the storm hit.

on a weekend, but flights'

were delayed or cancelled up

authorities reported a string

"They're just fender ben-

of minor accidents on ice-

ders and guys sliding into the harriers," a Massachusetts

New York's La Guardia

and John F. Kennedy Air-

ports were ordered closed

carly Saturday, but reopened after six to eight hours respec-

tively providing limited ser-

vices. By early afternoon one

of JFK's four runways and

nne of La Guardia's two run-

New Jersey's Newark Air-

ways were operational.

slickened roads.

state trooper said.

and down the east coast and

or in airport terminals.

The storm, which fullowed

Winter storm hits parts

of U.S., disrupts travel

WASHINGTON (R) - A port remained open through-

Airport.

higher than expected turnout - 73.15 per cent of the party's 112,681 paid-up members

cast ballots.
Mr. Jospin's victory came as an opinion poll showed that an unprecedented 69 per cent of the French are "don't knows" three months ahead of the first round of the presidentials on April 23 to re-place Socialist President Francois Mitterrand and that the situation could flip for the miles-ahead favourite, 65year-old Balladur.

The poll, by the IFOP institute for the Journal Du Dimanche newspaper, also said that 21 per cent of voters said they disliked all of the 11 candidates and would prob-

ahly abstain.
But Mr. Jospin, with his curt, rigid manner and puritanical reputation, may not be the man to reverse the trend. Recent opinion polls have said that Mr. Jospin would not make it into the second round of the presidential of May 7 — hut that was before the Socialist primary.

The party's two best candidates have withdrawn. Former European Commissinn chief Jacques Delors pulled

out the night but had limited

arrival and departure ser-

vices. Air traffie was snarled

at Philadelphia International

Bostan's Logan Airport

was closed early Saturday

afternoun hut was expected

to open later in the day.

Baltimnre-Washington Inter-

national was operating only

one of its four runways, an

Forecasters had given plen-

ty of advance warning about

the storm, prompting fren-

zied shoppers to jam area supermarkets Friday to stock

up on food. Anthorities in

many cities contracted for

New York City officially

had nine inches (23-cm) of

snow, which by mid-day had

sanitation workers on alert to

continuously operate 1,850 snowplows and spreaders in

an attempt to keep primary

They appealed to people to

stay home and keep warm.

Those who had to go out

were urged to use mass tran-

one font (30-cm) north and west of Philadelphia, with

drifts at least twice as deep.

An area between Phi-

ladelphia and New York was

hardest hit, with Princeton.

New Jersey hit hy 16 inches (40-cm), Mr. Candor said.

Snow depths reached over

roads passable to traffic.

City officials placed 3,000

additional snowplows.

turned to rain.

airport spokesman said.

out in December even though opinion polls said he would defeat Mr. Balladur.

And popular former Culture Minister Jack Lang withdrew last month after failing to win support from party apparatchiks.

But Mr. Jospin's candidacy should cut the number of "don't-knows" and the decision of the centre-right former Prime Minister Raymond Barre whether nr not stand - to be announced later this month - should further reduce the numbers of the undecided.

A jnker in the pack for Mr. Jospin is the attitude of failed tyenon Bernard Tapie's

Radical Party.
Mr. Tapie, who is ineligihle afer being declared bankrupt, is detested by Mr. Jospin, who recently said that
mortality should be brought back into politics and that "a minium virtue" and of "honesty" was required.

Mr. Tapie, who at first said Radical would put up a candidate if Mr. Jospin became the Socialist candidate, Saturday offered his support "provided be is open with me and that he openly shakes me by the hand."

Gingrich:

NAŠA

sbuttle, with international crew of six, will fly

The Spartun-204 Spacecraft is lifted over Discovery's cargo bay by the shuttle's robot arm operated by Russian Astronaut Viadimir Titov and U.S. astronaut Janice Voss. The (AFP photo)

Shuttle's 2nd jet leak stopped; close approach to Mir is still threatened

proceed no matter what hap-pens on this mission. At least

seven Atlanta-Mir dockings

are planned through 1997;

Discovery's flight was the

The first steering thruster to leak, located at the rear of

Discovery, began spewing nitrogen tetroxide shortly af-

ter Discovery reached orbit Friday. The amount of leak-age has decreased from 2

pounds (1 kg) to a half-pound (225 gr) per hour, but Rus-

sian space officials are wor-ried even that much could

The second leak popped up

Saturday afternoon in a

thruster at the front of dis-

contaminate the station.

dress rehearsal.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florcare canaveral, For-ida (AP) — Spouting fuel like a geyser, a leaking thruster on Discovery is threatening to ruin the shuttle's rendezvous with the Russian space

Discovery later sprang another thruster leak, this one even bigger, but the crew got that seepage to stop by late Saturday night. Russian officials were con-

cerned the leaking fuel might damage their orbiting Mir station if Discovery came too close during Monday's ren-dezvous, NASA flight con-trollers scrambled to provide as much information about the leak as possible to their Russian counterparts.

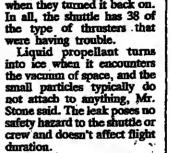
Mission Operations Director Randy Stone said NASA will do whatever the Russians want. In the worst case, the Discovery and its crew of six will have to fly around Mir from a distance of about 400 feet (125 metres), he said. The original plan called for the shuttle approaching as close as 35 feet (10 metres), he said. The original plan called for the shuttle approaching as close as 35 feet (10 metres) as practice for the first shuttle-Mir dock-

ing in June. Shuttle Commander James Wetherbee said that he would be disappointed if he pounds (2.7 kg) of propellant per hour when the crew shut couldn't close in all the way, it down for several hours. The jet had stopped leaking when they turned it back on. and that much information would he lost involving navigation and shuttle-In all, the shuttle has 38 of the type of thrusters that

handling.
"There are a lot of unwere having trouble. knowns, uncertainties with a rendezvous like this," Commander Wetherbee said. If Discovery is limited to 400 feet (125 metres), "then we'll give them what we can." National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials insist the June docking by Atlantis will

There's always a chance that the failed jet will stop leaking altogether, Mr. Stone said. There's no way to shut it off without disabling the two other jets in the same cluster, one of them critical for a

most of the time the propellant leaking from the first failed thruster looks like "a



"We have a relative degree of comfort that the contamination would not be an issue if we were on the other side of the fence. But we have got to arrive at that conclusion together before we would make the commitment to go close," Mr. Stone

close approach.

Com. Wetherbee said that

very slow snowstorm"



The first woman space shuttle pilot Eileen space shuttle Discovery's flight deck (AFP Collins goes through a switch check list on the

Evita enters laser age as Menem launches campaign

BUENOS AIRES (R) - His popularity boosted by Argennnes' fear nf a Mexico-style crisis, President Carlos Menem has launched his reelection campaign with a huge rally that married laser displays and giant images of Evita Peron.

State television carried the prime-time Saturday night event live for an hour and a half from the Atlantic resort of Mar Del Plata and put attendance at 100,000. Police estimated the crowd at 40,000.

"Our beloved Argentina has become a serious, credible, trustworthy country ...which is the centre of attention even for the greatest powers on earth," Mr. Menem said to the thunder nf dozens of bass drums beaten by approving suppor-

The Peronist president is seeking a second term to Argentina's "ecommic mira-cle" of low rapid growth. He has increased his lead ahead of the May 14 vote since Mexico devalued its peso in Decem-

The shock waves that hit Latin American's emerging economies gave him an extra 10 percentage points because voters see him as a guarantee of stability, a poll published Saturday showed.

the country reported wide-The poll, commissioned by spread voter apathy and said the government, gave Mr. they expected turnout to be menem 37.2 per cent of vot-Jacques Roussellier of the ing intentions in greater Buenos Aires - home to Organisation for Security and one-third of Argentina's 33 Cooperation in Europe million population — against (OSCE) said the elections 15.8 per cent for the Radical were poorly organised and Party of his predecessor, the legal framework murky but they were still the most

Raul Alfonsin. A centre-left front that had earlier emerged as a possible second force came in third in the poil with 14.2 per cent. Bolstered by these figures, Mr. Menem exulted at the formal launch of his ticket. laughing, winking into state television cameras and clapping his hands to the beat of the crowd's rendition of a popular hit by the title of

Matador' "Killer." His vice-president candidate, former Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, used Mr. Menem's handling of the fallout from the Mexican crisis to urge voters to hack him

again.
"Just now when everything in the Americans shook, when it seemed a minister wave from Mexico was about to sweep it all away, once again the skipper managed to keep the boat nn course," he roared. "Menem knows the

But Mr. Ruckauf also mentinned unemployment — at more than 12 per cent, one of the weak flanks of the "economic miracle" - and quoted Evita, the legendary first wife of party founder Juan Domingo Peron who roused crowds in his support.

For us a jobless man is not part of statistics. He is as Evita taught us, a gaping wound in our heart," Mr. Ruckauf said. Mr. Menem. irked by the

embarrassingly high nnemployment figure published last month, has described it as misleading and says he wants the calculation method revised. "I have no doubts that the coming years too will be

years nf growth and development," he told the crowd. "Brothers and sisters, let's win let's win let's win" he urged as a shower of fireworks lit up the night sky.

should have been disbanded WALESKA, Georgia (R) -

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich said that the U.S. space agen-cy NASA should have been disbanded after the Apollo space programme ended in the 1970s.

In a history lecture at Reinhardt College in this small north Georgia town, Mr. Gingrich said he generally favours government-funded science and technology programmes. But he criticised the National Aeronautics and Space Administraton (NASA) for becoming increasingly bureaucratic the longer it survived.

"The government can do basic research and development or the government can come out here and set up the Apollo project," the Georgia Republican said in a lesson on breakthroughs in innova-

"Remember, NASA was brand new. They built it up, they did it and if they'd disbanded it at that point, I think they'd have been better

"Yon build a project team, you get the job done and then you close it down and start a new project. If you keep people there, they become ohsolescent they become bureaucratic."

But when asked later what he thinks should be done with NASA now, Mr. Gingrich said he would not favour scrapping the space agency

"I'm not proposing that we abolish NASA," he said after a town hall meeting in the nearby town of Smyrna. "I think it ought to be thoroughly overhauled. My point was that if we had a system where you would constantly he reformulating based on missions rather than on a zone, you'd have more talent and more energy."

Haiti parliament ends turbulent tenure

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) -The tenure of Haiti's fractious Chamber of Deputies came to an end Saturday, drawing the curtain on four years of turbulence marked by corruption, gunfire and fisticuffs, diplomats and politicians said.

The only unfinished business left was the closing ceremony at the run-down Legislative Palace and the deputies were to meet later in the day to preside over a final curtain fall that few people were sad to see come

the office in 1992 nor has it

subsided since he became

Mr. Maraniss also wrote

The entire 83-scat Chamber of Deputies and twothirds of the 27-man Senate are np for reelection.

"The parliament is a mess," one American diplomat said recently. The diplo-mat, who described the lawmakers as "dysfunctional," was in the chamber various times during the last few years and saw some amazing performances.

A year ago, U.S. Ambas-sador William Swing was quickly hustled out of the chamber by his bodyguards after scuffles broke out between rival politicians.

On other ocassions guns have been drawn and in parliament's blackest day, shortly after the 1991 coup that deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, soldiers borst into the chamber and sprayed it with gunfire. Less violent but no less embarrassing is the cham-

ber's parliamentary record over the last four years. Few serious laws have been passed and those that were required a struggle.

Stories of past womanising haunt Clinton anew Mr. Clinton when he sought

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A new book claiming that President Bill Clinton's alleged extra-marital affairs prevented him from seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988 has put the White House on the de-

First In His Class, a biography of Mr. Clinton hy Washington Post reporter David Maraniss, claims that the then-Arkansas governor gave up his bid for the 1988 party nod after his chief of staff Betsey Wright asked him for a list of women he

had affairs with. Mr. Clinton and Ms. Wright reviewed the list twice to assess which women would go public and which would not. Ms. Wright reportedly advised Mr. Clinton after the review not to get into the

Tace. The womanising issue was a key topic in 1988, with tales of an extramarital affair forcing the leading Democratic contender Gary Hart to relinquish his bid for the presiden-

The issue did not fade for

ernor, certainly not with his knowledge," she added.

time.' man Michael McCurry said

that "She (Wright) was convinced that some state troopers were soliciting women for him and be for them." "I think that David Maraniss may have misunderstood what I told him about the troopers," Ms. Wright said in

"What I believe is that some of them solicited women for themselves, exploiting the fact that they worked for the governor. I do not believe that they ever solicited women for the gov-

"There are some matters discussed in that book that were raised during the course of the president's 1992 campaign and they were effectively dealt with at that White House spokes-

"And beyond that, I'm not sure there's anything that's particularly newsworthy that deserves further comment," he added. Mr. Maraniss stood by his

story, saying he had inter-viewed Ms. Wright several times and met with her prior to the work's release to review the sections of the book with which she was involved.

"Her response at the time was that I had fairly and accurately reported what she had said," Mr. Maraniss told the Post. Gennifer Flowers claimed

during the 1992 race that she had had a previous relationship with Mr. Clinton. Paula Jones filed snit against Mr. Clinton last year, claiming he made a sexual advance toward her during a 1991 business meeting in Lit-

tle Rock Arkansas when he was still governor and she was a state employee. Mr. Clinton ran most of the campaign by downplaying the allegations. Media cover-

age finally forced him to hold a news conference with his wife in which admitted that their marriage had "some

The Jones suit is among the key cases that have forced the Clintons to establish a special donation fund for legal de-

The legal fund raised \$608,000 between last June and December, but the Clintons still owe nearly \$1 million, the fund reported Fri-

The book also shed more light on another touchy issue for Mr. Clinton: His military draft history.

As a student in the late 1960s Mr. Clinton sought to join the Reserve Officers Training Corps. By joining the group, he was able to avoid being drafted into service in Vietnam.

According to the book, when Mr. Clinton was running for the House of Representatives in 1974 he asked an ROTC leader to destroy a compromising letter on the

However Mr. Clinton did. not know a copy of the letter existed and that document came back to haunt him in the 1992 race.

Prince of Wales goes fox-hunting

GRITTLETON, England ... (AFP) — Prince Charles went fox-hunding near his home in southwest England, despite protests from animal rights campaigners in a week that saw the movement claim its first "martyr". Around 100 hunters, including Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, took part in the hunt. October when he took his sons the Prince William and Henry on a fox-hunt, prompting parliamentarians to ask the government to make it illegal to take children to a hunt. An animal rights pro-tester, Jill Phipps, was killed Wednesday at Coventry Airport in the English Midlands when she fell under the wheels of a truck transporting calves for export to veal producers in France and Hol-

Police probe bugging claim in Diana court case

LONDON (R) - British police are probing claims that someone bugged a defence lawyer's phone call in a case brought by Princess Diana against a former gymnasium owner. Princess Diana is exnected to appear in court ater this month when she sues New Zealander Bryce Taylor and Mirror Group newspapers over photos of her exercising at a London fitness club. "We can confirm that a firm of solicitors, Simons, Muirhead and Burton, have made a complaint alleging that a telephone conversation involving a member of their staff was illegally ... intercepted and recorded," a police spokesman said Saturday. This followed claims in the Mail on Sunday that transcripts of an hour-long conversation about Princess ... Diana had been offered for sale to newspapers. It was between Mr. Taylor's lawyer, -.. Razi Mireskandari, and a woman hired to trace potential witnesses, the paper said. Mr. Mireskandari was quoted as saying: "I find this very sinister. I am worried that my opponents may get to know everything we have been doing." Princess Diana, separated from her husband ... Prince Charles, is due to be ..! the first member of the British royal family to appear in ". court for almost a century.

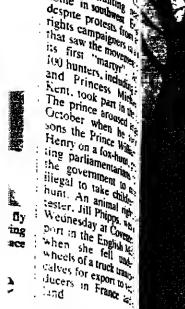
Vicar teaches clergy how to combat satanism

LONDON (R) - A "ghostbuster" vicar who works as an official church exorcist is to run a special course to teach fellow clergymen how to combat satanism. "My course is designed for young clergymen who are now facing this new challenge known to older churchmen for many years now. More and more people are now dabbling in the occult with sad and frightening results," Tim Willis said. Willis, who is launching the conference later this month, handles about 30 inquiries a year in the northern English diocese of York from worried callers with reports about ghosts and evil spirits. He was once called to a fishing trawler after the crew reported seeing ghosts and refused to put to sea.

Conductor guits after 'mafioso' phone threats

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — One of Italy's best-known elassical musicians tried to shrug off bad reviews of the opera he was conducting. But he said there was one suggestion he didn't dare ignore - an apparent moh threat to leave. Salvatore Accardi left the podium Thursday as conduc-tor of Mozart's Don Giovanni at Naples' San Carlo Theatre after receiving anonymons threatening phone calls, newspapers reported Saturday. The 53year-old violinist described the messages, in which he was told in a thick Neapolitan accent to "get out," as "an unmistakahle mafia-type threat." Police have opened an investigation. But exactly why the mob would target Accardo was not clear, and suspicion has been raised that Accardo's sudden departure is a response to the whistles from the audience and the barbs from opera critics. His contract with San Carlo runs until August. The theatre's superintendent, Francesco Canessa, gave short shrift to Accardo's claims. "Accardo is physically and psychologically drained, and hasn't been able to get over what rightly or wrongly, bas been a flop for him," he said.





Police probe Diana court can be passes the dyke which recently kept the water of the

goes fox-hunting

GRITTLETON

(AFP)

went fox-hunting
home in southers being the protest from inghts campaigners as

LONDON (R)

College are probing de bugged a water phone call a brought by Princes

Cleanist a former on the college and the college are turned to their homes Sunday

LONDON (R)

Majority of Dutch flood

Mass and Waal region, which was re-opened Saturday, pur up signs decorated with balloons thaoking their fellow Princess Diag pected to appear a ater this month we New Zealanda and Minor Townspers over pts evacuate last week ...
evacuate last week ...
country's worst natural disaster in 40 years, but the swiftly
water levels had Simons, Munhead at already allowed around note made a cr. 65,000 people to go back - Traing that a telephor home Friday and Saturday.

- Traing that a telephor home Friday and Saturday.

Some 180,000 people in Some 100,000 per of Tiel and around the towns of Tiel and around the and leaved and Culemborg, declared and Cure moves and safe Sunday, were welcomed This followed by improvised road signs by improvised road signs Mari on Sunda

Mr Taylors's R. C. Viteskandan, - in hired to meet - Tesses the page homes against the threat of looting.
Relieved inhabitants of the - - i am kometa-.... wai be a ?. and the first of the factors of · · · · Parkarte ் சிரின் **கண்க**் The Chance of the Court of the ு. ஆ. மாகமைக்கின்

Vicar teaches

last week to dissolve parlia-ment unless it ditched leftist Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak rence nace of But see mob would ge men wound. has been rased

> spoke after arriving in Paris to promote her book, Deng Xiaoping My Father.

"He is 91 years old. He is in good health. But obviously he is aging," she said in an interview on France's staterun television channel. health, I would not have been

Then he flew home to the On Saturday the lower

Walesa plunges Polish politics into turmoil weekend, leaving Mr. Pawlak and bis ex-communist coalition partners quarrelling angrily and parliament in tur-

> moil. "The president will definitely not dissolve parliament this weekend. On Monday he will think it over, Mr. Walesa's lawyer Lech Falandysz told a radio inter-

viewer Friday.

troversial legal grounds he bas cited, they would defy bim and haul him up before a special court.

Throughout the weekend Poles were speculating what Mr. Walesa would do. and trying to understand why.

Mr. Walesa accuses Mr. Pawlak's government of stalling reforms, of being plauged by scandal, and of trying to usurp his authority.

European Union.

But many commentators suggest the former Solidarity Union leader's chief concern is presidential elections due late this year, in which be

intends to seek a second fiveyear term.

Daughter: China's destiny is out of Deng's hands

new team." Mr. Deng's daughter, in an interview last month with the New York Times, said her father was ailing and unable to walk, causing concern in foreign capitals about the Chinese leadership, she later backtracked on that somber analysis in favour of softer wording about her father's health that followed the gov-

ernment's approach. Deng Maomao stressed "the rules of nature" in speaking of her father's health, as she did in a brief interview with Agence France-Presse, the French news agency. "It is impossi-

ble that he becomes younger and younger. He will become older an dolder," the agency quoted her as saying.

Deng Maomao arrived in Paris earlier Saturday. She was to go on to the United TV interview.

including a five-year stay in Paris when he "opted for communism." She said that period proved "a very important influence" in his career. A second book that will deal with contemporary Chi-

na is planned, she said.

Ecuador claims more Peruvian attacks as Rio talks drag on

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) - Less than a day after Peru and Ecuador agreed in principlc to end their border dispute, Ecuador claimed Peruvian jungle fighters had attacked its border posts again.

Skirmishes occurred Saturday in the jungled mountains along the border 220 miles (350 kilometres) southeast of Quito, Ecuadorean officials said.

They described the clashes as of "lower intensity" than previous fighting and said they had no information on casualties.

Peruvian officials had no comment on the reports. Peru sent soldiers experienced in fighting Maoist guerrillas to the disputed region last week.

The attacks came a day after negotiators from Peru and Ecuador, meeting in Brazil, announced they had reached agreement in principle to end the 10-day border conflict and set up a demilitarised zone. The agreement was contingent on the presidents of both nations giving final approval to the details.

Ecuador had agreed to a simultaneous withdrawal of troops but Peru wants the Ecuadoreans to withdraw first, said Ecuadorean spokesman Santiago Aguilar. In Rio De Janeiro. Ecuador's main representative to the talks, Marcelo Fernandez De Cordova, said his nation was "deeply concerned with the delay in reaching a definitive suspen-

sioo of hostilities." But Peru's chief delegate, Eduardo Ponce, responded that the Ecuadoreans were "trying to gain international sympathy by presenting themselves as victims."

Antonio Barros Simoes, a Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Saturday evening in Rio that negotiators sent new proposals to the presidents of Peru and Ecuador earlier in the day, and said talks would continue

"We have received requests from both governmined the border area.



Brazilian Vice Foreign Minister Sebastiao Do Rego Barros (left) talks to the press during a break in negotiations dealing with the Peru-Ecuador border dispute at the Itamaraty Palace in Rio De Janeiro. Representatives of the guarantor countries of the 1941 peace

treaty between Peru and Ecuador, Juan Jose Uranga (2nd-left) of Argentina, Fabio Vio 13rd-left) of Chile, Alexander Watson (2ndright) of the U.S., and Mr. Barros are continuing their meetings to find a diplomatic solution to the dispute (AFP photo)

for more time to consider the latest proposals." Mr. Barros said, without elaborating.

Inside the negotiating room, about 10 weary-eyed negotiators from the United States, Chile, Argentina and Brazil sat around a rectangular table covered with a detailed map of the disputed area, empty cups of coffee, crumpled paper and ashtrays filled with cigarette butts. At least 20 people have been killed in fighting that

erupted Jan. 26 over an unmarked 50-mile (80kilometre) portion of the border. The conflict over the area, which may contain gold, uranium and oil, stems from a 1941 war that Ecuador

Each side claims the other started the latest flareup. Ecuador says eight of its soldiers have died in the fighting and two are missing and believed dead. Peru acknowledges it has lost 11 soldiers but claims to have killed about 43 Ecuadorean soldiers. One Peruvian civilian was killed after stepping on a land mine. Both sides have

Reporters who have visited *

the area say the Ecuadorean troops are dug into the mountaintops and have honeycombed the terrain with tunnels.

Peru contends the entire 160-kilometre border was established in a 1942 agreement. Ecuador declared the agreement null in 1960, before the border was fully marked.

The agreement was guaranteed by the United States, Argentina, Chile and Skirmishes also occurred in

the area in 1981. Peru and Ecuador mutually accuse each other of attacking posts with their territory, but they have taken sharply different tacks on how to tell the world their

side of the border conflict. Ecuador, apparently wellprepared for the hostilities, has bombarded the media with official communiques, interviews with high-level officials and trips to the front

along its border with Peru. "The coverage of informa tion has constituted one of the pillars to confront the Peruvian aggression on the frontier," a statement from

munications Secretariat said. "It is being said Ecuador is winning the information

For its part, Peru accuses Ecuador of carrying out a well-managed campaign of disinformation aimed at portraying Lima as the "aggressor from the south," a Goliath trying to bully its smaller neighbour.

"It is obvious we are dealing with a campaign of information intoxification on the part of the Ecuadorean Armed Forces," said Peru's army chief General Nicolas Hermoza Thursday in his first press briefing since hostilities

broke out a week earlier. But Peruvian officials remain huddled with the president behind closed doors. The jonit chiefs of staff has issued two official communiques since the fighting began.

When Gen. Hermoza did sperk, he took no questions. The following day, his ...dorean counterpart called a press briefing to "categorically deny" most of Gen.

Hermoza's statements. Both sides have offered varying casualty tolls.

Sarajevo blast anniversary marked quietly

SARAJEVO (R) - The people of Sarajevo marked the first anniversary Sunday of the Merkale Market mas-sacre, a bloody city-centre mortar blast that galvanised international will to intensify United Nations peace efforts

in Bosnia. No official ceremonies were scheduled and shoppers througed the food market where on Feb. 5, 1994, a total of 68 people died from the impact of a mortar bomb in

after authorities declared the

majority of dikes around the

downstream Maas and Waal

Swollen rivers had forced some 250,000 people to

which read "welcome home,

"mobile police unit salutes

Those returning home ex-pressed their gratitude to the

army and emergency services

who had toiled all week to

strengthen dikes and guard

nivers safe.

Ooipolder."

the worst single atrocity of the war. The attack set in train diplomatic and military peace initiatives which obliged Serbs, under threat of NATO air strikes, to remove most of their tanks and siege guns from around the city and after many months of mediation culminated in a four-

month ceasefire that took effect on Jan. 1 this year. Fighting now is mainly confined to the northwestern Bihac pocket which troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian government army are defending against rebel Muslims armed

and aided by Serbs. The Sarajevo newspaper Oslobodjenje regretted that the international mediation. although it has ended much of the bloodletting, has made

little diplomatic progress. The (aftermath of the) Merkale Market is maybe the

Mr. Walesa threatened late

said in an editorial.

been frightened, Sarajevo wouldo't be an occupied city. Bosnia would be a free country. But that's not the way it

termine which side was re-

the parents of one victim laid a lone wreath, commanders of the Muslim, Serb and Croat armies were due to

to discuss reinforcing the ceasefire.

tween them.

only example of when the soulless world made a serious threat to the criminals," it

loons thaoking their fellow countrymen. Thank you

on the Rhine, Maas and Waal

rivers were now falling at a

rate of 60 cm (24 inches) a

day and bad dropped two

metres since they peaked

The last 15,000 evacuees,

primarily from around Gorin-

chem, the most western part

of the evacuated regions...

would probably be allowed

home Mooday, the mayor of

Bur a dike inspector said

the Waal River dikes around

Gorinchem had been ripped

apart due to the intense

pressure of the swollen rivers

and the sudden drop in water

dike is still very high and it

will take a few days before it

is as safe as it was before the

floods," he told national

The water pressure in that

Officials said water levels

Holland," one said.

Wednesday.

Gorinchem said.

levels.

"If the criminals had really

Muslims and Serbs blamed each other for firing the fatal mortar bomb and U.N. peacekeepers said their investigation was unable to de-

sponsible. The incident occurred just days before the opening of the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, and

this helped the world remember that just 10 years earlier the same games had been staged in Sarajevo, then part of the Yugoslav Federation. As Sarajevans baggled Sunday over the price of vegetables at the marker, and

meet United Nations officials

The rivals were expected to discuss mapping of the front lines so that U.N. peacekeepers could be deployed be-

U.N. sources said the outcome would show whether military commanders were serious abour enforcing the ceasefire.

In Zagreb, the chief of staff of the Croatian army defended his government's decision to evict U.N. peacekeepers from rebel Serb enclaves on Croatian territory but denied that the move was intended to provoke war.

Croatia has refused to renew the U.N. mandate that expires on March 31 and has given the United Nations unril June 30 to remove its 12,000 men from the third of Croatian soil which the Croa-

tian Serbs bold. The Serbs, who fear repression if they submit themselves to rule from Zagreb, bave set up the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which effectively exists under U.N.

protection. Zagreb believes they will be more amenable to negotiations if the U.N. buffer is

removed. Gen. Bobetko told Reuters in an interview: "Croatia

is made out to be less interested in peace and more interested in solving problems with other means, as if cancelling the U.N. mandate meant making way for re-newed conflicit. It's just the opposite.

in Munich, Germany, leaders of Croatia and Bosnia

house decided by 376 to 16.

with 16 abstentions, that if

Mr. Walesa tried to dismiss

parliament using the con-

adopted a nice-point plan here Sunday to save their Muslim-Croatian federation from breaking apart, talks chairman and U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke said.

The government said last week that it would speed up

an existing programme of

announced a compensation

scheme late friday, which

many flood victims said did

not go far enough. Mr. Kok said households

would have to bear the first

2,000 guilders (\$1,176) of

damage themselves but the

government would reimburse

any damage above this

amount. For those who suf-

fered in the December 1993

floods too, the threshold would be lowered to 1,000

guilders (\$588).

Companies will have to bear the first 2,000 guilders of

damage and will receive 65

per cent of any additional

costs, or 90 per cent if they

were also hit by the 1993

merce in Gelderland pro-

vince has estimated that the

floods and evacuation have

cost over one billion guilders

The Chamber of Com-

floods.

(SSSS million).

Prime Minister Wim Kok

dike reinforcement.

swollen River Wall from his home. All people living in the

polder were evacuated one to the threat of the dyke breaking (AFP photo)

evacuees return home

The heavily soaked dike

As a continued safety mea-

sure 10 protect dikes, no cars

and trucks were allowed on

good care of our dikes now,

said Ed Van Tellingen, the

mayor of the medieval town

of Tiel on the banks of the

The week-long crisis

sparked intense criticism of

the government and environ-

mentalists for delaying work

to strengthen this low-lying

country's vital flood de-

But the floods also trig-

gered a reappraisal of the

origin of the Dutch nation's

unity, forged in a constant

its flooding to remain aware

of what we are, people living on land reclaimed from the

sea through a united efforts,"
one broadcaster said.

Every generation needs

struggle against the tides.

"We have to take very

tops can crumble inwards like

overcooked plum puddings.

causing cracks and rips.

the water defences.

The U.S.-brokered plan of an international mediator to solve differences at the heart of the federation, created last March.

The five-power "contact group" on the Bosnian conflcir was also meeting in parallel in Munich Sunday to try to breathe new life into general Bosnian peace

Croatian and Bosnian representatives agreed to abide the decisions of an appointed mediator who is to be nominated by a person chosen by common accords between the parties, said Mr. Holbrooke, who spoke of an "excellent" meeting.

In addition, a standing committee will be created in Sarajevo to supervise the state of the federation.

Meanwhile, the two sides will provide experts in constitutional law to shore up the federation's institutions and mediation sub-groups will be detailed to iron out differences between "specific communities" with a view to extending cooperation with the

ments, particularly from one,

ruled Northern Ireland.

thority. But Gerry Adams, presi-dent of the Irish Republican Army's (1RA) political wing

with Ireland.

whose votes the government is heavily dependent. He issued a statement at the end of a turbulent week in which Mr. Major was warned by Unionist MPs that they would bring down his minority government if the peace plan threatened their

cherished British status. Mr. Major was forced to address the nation to calm their fears after a newspaper leak said the plan envisaged cross-border bodies which would bring Northern Ireland much closer to reunification

There is a grave danger at this time that John Major may attempt to placate the Unionists while paying lip service to the need for

days to answer. Mr. Rao later

after the next election," he added.

cally.
The Anglo-Irish initiative is at a critical stage, waiting for the two governments to agree on a so-called framework documentsetting out the next phase of what Republic.

they launched in December

N. Irish unionists put on election footing

BELFAST (R) - Protestant vival. Ulster Unionist Jeader James Molyneaux has put his party a risk Mr. Major might seek to lead his party into govern-Anglo-Irish peace plan to placate the Unionists on determined bid to block Dublin's involvement in British-

Raising the stakes in a row that could bring down Prime Minister John Major's minority government, Mr. Molyneaux has ordered his constituency parties to pick candidates in all 17 parliamentary seats in the pro-

Party sources confirmed Mr. Molyneaux was ready to withdraw support from the British government if it advanced plans from its talks with Dublin to set up a powerful cross-border au-

Sinn Fein, warned Mr. Major not to dilute the peace plan to ensure his own political sur-

"His concern is to survive Mr. Adams said there was as British prime minister and

> Unionists hold 13 seats in the British parliament where Mr. Major heads what is technically a minority administration after a rebellion by right-wing conservatives against his European Union policies.

It was thought to be the first time Mr. Adams had raised the spectre of a coalition government if Mr. Major's is brought down and echoed fears in Irish Nationalist circles that his domestic problems might set the peace process back radi-

That plan lured the IRA

25-year war against British rule, and was followed by a truce by Protestant loyalist gunmen fighting to keep it. Mr. Adams called on britain to begin new all-party talks as soon as possible — Britain has yet to hold official talks with Sinn Fein, and wants IRA and lovalist arms

surrendered before convening any new forum. The framework steps are expected to include crossborder bodies to rationalise economic cooperation between the two Irish neigh-bours and to foster new

north-south trust. Unionists fear that they will be run by executive bodies which will dilute thir sovereignty and nudge the province closer to reunification with the Catholic Irish

change," Mr. Adams said. Power battle in Indian Congress moves to climax

NEW DELHI (R) - The battle for power in India's ruling Congress Party moves towards a climax this week with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao expected to expel his arch-rival Arjun

Singh for ann-party activities.

The power struggle is being played out against a backdrop of sagging party elector-al fortunes, with Congress facing a major challenge this week in statewide polls in its traditional stronghold of Maharashira.

"The politics of dissension and dissidence should be thrown away," Mr. Rao said Sunday as he stomped the campaign trail in the western state of Maharashtra.

Mr. Singh, who resigned as human resources minister on Dec. 24, has accused Mr. Rao of ignoring the Muslims and lower castes that have traditionally supported the Congress Party.

The former party number two has become a focus for dissent in Congress. But his support remains patchy, and he is unlikely to be able to block a decision to expel him by the party disciplinary committee, which is dominated by Rao loyalists. The committee suspended

Mr. Singh on Jan. 24, saying he had capitalised on Congress election reverse in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to advance his own political ambitions.

It later presented him with step aside would then ina formal "charge-sheet" crease dramatically. accusing him of anti-party and anti-government activipossible contender for the ties, giving Mr. Singh four

extended the time limit for a response. Mr. Singh has said he will answer the charges, which he calls "totally misconceived and delightfully vague." on Monday. The disciplinary committee will consider his fight. This weekend he pro-

Rao is expected to direct that he be expelled. Indian commentators are agreed that Mr. Singh will find it much more difficult once he has been expelled to capture the party as did former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Few credit Mr.

response Tuesday, and Mr.

Gandhi within the party. But many party grandees are awaiting the results of elections in six states this month and next before deciding which way to jump.

Singh with the stature of Mrs.

Defeats for Congress in Maharashtra and Gujarat, the two states it holds where a vote is taking place, would leave the ruling controlling just a handful of states, with the two biggest, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, in the

hands of Singh loyalists. With fears growing of a Congress debacle general elections due by June 1996, the pressure on Mr. Rao to Mr. Singh is not the only

party leadership. His current ally N.D. Tiwari, the former Congress chief in India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh, is also waiting in the wings and could benefit from Mr. Singh's expulsion. But Mr. Singh is not going to be squeezed out without a

duced one of his trump cards.

in the shape of Sonia Gandhi,

widow of the assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Italian-born Sonia is now the senior member of the Nehru-Gandhi family that has run the party and ruled India for much of its postindependence history and still commands almost reli-

gious loyalty from much of the Congress rank-and-file. Her decision Saturday night to attend an annual party in New Delhi given Mr. Singh, where last year Mr. Rao was the chief guest, sent a clear message of the views

of the Gandhi dynasty.

The Congress Party is expected to suffer a setback in crucial elections in the country's most industrialised state of Maharashrra, according to an opinion poll published Sunday.

But Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar dismissed the poti saying Congress, which has initiated wide-ranging economic reform in India, would sweep home with an absolute

majority.
"Development of the state. liberalisation and the benefit of foreign investment will see us through," he told reporters during a campaign trip.

Mr. Rac launched a last-

minute round of campaigning Sunday ahead of the elections, which take place in two phases on Feb. 9 and 12. Opinion polls have been showing the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena (SS) alliance gaining ground over Con-

gress in Maharashtra, India's

industrial heartland which includes the commercial banking centre of Bombay. In the latest poll published at the weekend by India Today magazine and the Marketing And Research Group (MARG), Congress is shown with 23.3 per cent of the vote, against 38.2 per

cent in the last state elections in 1989. The BJP-SS alliance is forecast to raise its share of the vote to 31.2 per cent.

againsi 26.6 per cent in 1989. The left of centre Janata Dal Party is shown steady with 16.4 per cent of the vote. compared with 16.8 per cent last time. Other parties, don't knows and independents make up the rest.

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Pul 10 921 Conductorquit after matioso phone threats *, 47° ES, Italy (APInown de med to

the opening and the opening an WARSAW (R) - President Lech Walesa, having plunged one suggests Poland's entire political scene into chaos, is now waiting to Accard M see what rewards be can North Don fit Naples San I after tetth threate. - alle newspage Saturday deci voolunts what cassages in Walk get cut.

sudden departure to the medical suddence and the medical suddence and the medical suddence and the suddence short such sand suddence short such suddence short suddence sho

port city of Gdansk for the PARIS (AP) — The daughter of Chinese leader Deng

Xiaoping said that her father was in good bealth for a 91-yer-dold man but that the destiny of China was already m the bands of a new team. Deng Maomao, also known as Deng Rong, said she hoped that foreign nations would begin to shift their attention more to her father's successors. She

added.

"If he were in very bad able to come," to Paris, she

Asked why he did not appear on television recently. she replied: "Mr. Deng did not appear on television because there is already a team of successors... who are entering a transition period of (the nation's) political direction. Mr. Deng is already retired.

"The destiny of China is

now in the hands of the new

team," she said, adding, "I

hope our foreign friends can

show more concern about the

States Feb. 10, but made no mention of that visit in her Her book covers the first 45 year's of her father's life.

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Facsimile: 696183

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Funndation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Stop inhuman trade

INDIA'S DECISION Saturday to ban the sale of human organs brings to the fore a grave human rights problem that remained brushed under the carpet for so long. The bold Indian step came in the wake of the arrest of hospital employees for "forcing" some unemployed people to donate their kidneys for patients ont-side the country in return for money and promises of job opportunities.

In recent years, the trade in human organs from developing countries to rich nations has reached almost endemic proportions ever since organ transplant became medically possible. Many efforts were made in the past to curb this inhuman phenomenon but with very little success. Human rights watchers have repeatedly portrayed a horrific picture of poor children being smuggled from one end of the world to the other for the purpose of transplanting their organs into the bodies of those who can afford the operation. Poor adults have also fell easy prey to international gangs engaged in organ trade. This is not the same as donors consenting to giving a kidney to another patient in dire need of the organ. Rather it is an illegal trade by which the economic conditions of some people are being exploited by "forcing" them to sell their organs to the rich in the developed world. There must be countries other than India that have also outlawed the trafficking in human organs for financial gains. What is lacking still is a coordinated international effort in which all countries would cooperate to check the expanding trade in human organs. Children in particular are most vulnerable, especially those who became known as "street children." Here in the Middle East, there is also a pressing need to work out a regional agreement on this subject before it becomes too late. The United **Nations Commission on Human Rights is** presently convening in Geneva to address a long list of human rights issues. It would be most opportune to call for an urgent debate on the subject of trading in human organs during this year's session. Trading in human parts is one symptom of the relationship between the rich North and the poor South. The North cannot possibly convince the South of the universality of human rights if issues like this are not addressed and corrected. Exploitation of the poor, especially of the poor's health, is one of the worst violations of human rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Sunday commented on a visit to Jordan by Omani Foreign Minister Youser Ben Alawi and his talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker by saying that the visit falls within the framework of an effort on the part of Oman and Jordan to coordinate their positions regarding the establishment of solidarity among Arab states. Before the Omani minister. Palestine leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited and talks with them mainly focused on the manner in which the Arab states can regain their unified ranks, the paper said. Jordan's participation in the Am Israeli summit in Cairo was another milestone in the Kingdom's continued efforts to rally Arab ranks on all fronts at this crucial stage in the region's history, it continued. The paper noted that Jordan is not confining itself to the peace treaty with Israel and is giving due attention to relations with the other Arab states, which must be strengthened so that Jordan's position can be bolstered in the face of any challenge. The paper said that it is clear that Jordan has not sufficed itself with the peace treaty with Israel and is clearly seeking ways aimed at securing a comprehensive peace on all Israeli Arab tracks.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily Sunday demanded that stricter measures be imposed on merchants dealing in basic foodstuffs to stem the spiralling rise in prices. Mohammad Daoud said that despite the declared measures which the Ministry of Supply has promised to take to bridle prices and thwart the merchants manipulations including the publication of their names and addresses in the local press, nothing has materialised and the prices continue to rise adding to the misery of the needy and the limited income families.

Human Rights File

Homosexuality justified!

THERE ARE increasing calls in many Western countries to outlaw discrimination between people on the basis of sexual orientation. Gays and lesbians have been accepted more and more as partners enjoying equal rights as hetrosexually married people. Recent court decisions have gone as far as allowing state family support services to "married" homosexuals on par with those available to legally married people. Recently a Canadian court has ruled in favour of a gay couple by accepting their application for a legal custody over a child to raise as a "family." Closer to home, Israel's Supreme court has also moved in a recent decision to discard differential treatment between homosexuals and hetrosexuals, and in the process precipitated a storm in the country with many political leaders accusing the court of eroding the Jewish character of the country.

of the country.

This trend is also reaching international buman rights bodies where there is also an increasing call for according homosexuals and hetrosexuals equal treatment. While the battle within international fora on this issue is far from being over, recent medical evidence appears to to strengthen the hands of those who call for equal treatment to all kinds of sexual relationships or partnerships. The scientific findings on this point seem to corroborate the bypothesis that sexual orientation is genetically determined with individuals having no choice in the matter. In this vein it was found that brains of people prone to bomosexual activity bave something that is absent from the brains of

"normal" people.

If this new scientific discovery is further corroborated, then there is every reason not to condemn people with "abnormal" sexual orientation and to end discrimination against them. This issue will surely dominate buman rights debates in the upcoming years with the Western countries pushing barder than ever to eradicate discrimination

against gays and lesbians. This trend is bound to put human rights activists at loggerheads with traditionalists who still believe that homosexuality is promoted by environmental considerations and their sexual behaviours are condemnable by all monotheistic religions.

By Waleed Sa'di

of course, such a debate has no room in our society since our list of human rights priorities has not reached that level. Yet sooner or later, we will have to discuss this controversial subject out in the open because we also have amongst us many bomosexuals whose treatment may have to be reexamined. The debate would not be so easy, especially since it would necessarily have many religious and social overtunes attached to it. Yet is is never too early to start thinking about this subject.

To begin with, we cannot expect to endorse the new Western point of view on the subject in a precipitious way. It took Western culture many generations to move towards its present course. We should continue to discourage homosexuality but we should also begin the process of understanding it better. Above all, we may begin to view it not so much as an evil but rather as a disease or rather as an abberation in social and biological conduct that is treatable. As long as there is credible medical evidence that would shed more light on the homosexual phenomenon so that we start to view those of us who are part of it not as culpable people but rather as a group of people who are afflicted by a biological disorder over which they have no control.

Of course we are not talking bere of people who commit such acts in a violent way or against minors. Such people should continue to be penalised exactly the same way as normal people who commit violent sexual crimes. In the final analysis, though, what counts most is awareness of the problem, its extent and how best to deal with it. Sweeping the issue under the carpet is not exactly the most sensible way of dealing with it.



Food irradiation way for future

By Ala'a Taher

WITH THE population explosion in our world today, world food needs continue to escalate as problems in food storage and distribu-tion arise. Since early times, the most sought-after technology for food was its preservation. Food preservation methods in developing countries are not fully evolved, resulting in immense food losses. Even in industrial nations, the pursuit for alternative methods for food preservation continues. Over a third of the world's production of food is lost as a result of inefficient storage, rapid ripening, bacterial contamination and insect infestation. Studies indicate that such losses amount to millions of tonnes per year, valued at billions of dollars.

Throughou: history, re-search has been exhaustive on the problem of food contamination. Food borne disease have claimed many lives worldwide. The United Nation's joint expert Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) committee on food safety stated that "iliness due to contaminated food is perhaps the most widespread health problem in the contemporary world and an important cause of reduced economic produc-

This is where food irradiation plays a prominent role. It is a process that has countless applications in the food industry. This process is used to preserve food, avoid food losses after harvesting, and prevent the spread of food borne disease.

The name by itself can cause misleading fears to the consumer. This article will attempt to clarify false fables and explain why food irradiation could be vital to developing countries like Jordan.

Food irradiation is the treatment of food by a certain kind of energy. The process involves the exposure of the food product to minute dosages of radiation. This ionizing radiation prevents the division of living cells, such as bacteria, and cells of higher organisms.

Everything in our environment, including food, contains traces of radiation. commonly called "back-ground radiation". When foodstuffs are irradiated_no residue of radiation is detected and it does not turn the product radioactive. In companison to the level of radioactivity naturally present in food, the dosage amount is 200,000 times smaller. Panels of doctors. health officials and governmental agencies have concluded after years of research that food irradiation is oerfectly harmless and causes no health hazard to the consumer. In a definitive statement, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued the fol-

"Because no evidence has been submitted to contradict FDA's finding that irradiation of food does not cause the food to become radioactive, no further discussion of this issue is necessary."

In 1980 the FAO, the

International Atomic Energy Agency (!AEA), and the WHO stated:

The irradiation of any food commodity up to an overall average dose of 10KGy presents no toxicological hazard; nence toxicological testing of foods so treated is no longer required."

Currently, over 37 countries, including some Arab states, are utilising this process and each year new governments are approving it.

This process is extensively used to prolong the shelf life of food. Perishable food shelf life is extended by the termination of microorganisms that cause spoilage or product deterioration. De-

pending on the amount of dosage the products are exposed to, meat, poultry, fish and many other perishable foods may be stored safely for long periods, with or without refrigeration.

Exposure of fruits and vegetables to low dose radiation, slows down the ripening_ again extending the shelf life of the product. For example, this procedure increases the shelf life of mangoes for one week and bananas for two weeks. In addition, this procedure results in the synchronisation of the ripening process. Low dose radiation also inhibits sprouting of potatoes, yams, onions, and garlic. Spoilage caused by sprouting or germination is thus terminated and the food can be stored for longer periods of time throughout the season.

Food irradiation is also used for sterilising food-stuffs. In Jordan, 394 cases of food poisoning have been reported in 1993. This statistic represents only 1-5 per cent of the actual cases, most of which go unreported. Food borne diseases, food infection and intoxication are of major concern to the food industry. Salmonella outbreaks. Botulism, mold diseases. viruses and parasites are all examples that lead to vanous illnesses. Treating food with irradiation has shown a significant decrease in our exposure to food borne pathogens and microbial contamination.

Other functions of food irradiation range from disinfecting insects in wheat and wheat powder to extending shelf life of potatoes. In addition, it also serves to decontaminate spices and dry vegetable seasoning, control parasites in non-processed meat cuts, and control of illness-causing microorganisms in poultry and meat.

Some other processes can achieve a preservation effect, but the quality of flavour, texture and colour declines. To name one example, in the canning process, to sterilise and preserve the product, the cans are exposed to high temperatures which reduces the texture and flavour components. On the other hand, irradiation produces a shelfstable product, much closer to the fresh state in flavour, texture and colour. This can be attributed to the minimal temperature rise associated with this process.

As preservation con-

ninues to be a necessity for

food storage and distribution, new technologies are constantly being sought in the food industry. Ironically food irradiation was introduced immediately following the discovery of radioactivity in 1895, and has been studied more than any other food process. As mentioned above, extensive experiments have proven beyond any doubt that this method is not harmful, but on the contrary, beneficial to the coosumer. Governmental interest in this process is increasingly emerging due to the wide array of benefits this technology has to offer. This interest, if not already established, should become a main concern for governments whose economies are still largely based on food and agriculture. Given the relatively low cost of building a food irradiation plant, compared with the cost of the already existing food technologies in Jordan, the government should seriously consider adopting this state-of the-art inexpensive vet invaluable technology.

The writer is a Masters student at the Food, Science and Technology Department at Chapman University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times. The article has been made possible with the guidance of Dr. Fred Caporasso and Dr. Walter Clark at Chapman University.

U.N. poverty summit sets ambitious goals

By Evelyn Leopold Reuter

UNITED NATIONS —
The United Nations World
Social Summit, planned for
Copenhagen in March, has
devised unimaginably ambitious goals — the eradication of poverty, the creation
of jobs, the well-being of
peoples.

The summit, scheduled from March 6 to 12, bas been plagued since its inception by the magnitude of the subject matter that tends to overwhelm the participants from 185 coun-

tries.
"It's the sea of sands,"
said Timothy Wirth, the
U.S. undersecretary of
state for global afffairs.
"You grab hold of it and it
falls between your fingers."

Nevertheless, the response is overwhelming. More than 90 heads of state or government bave promised to attend, among them Russian President Boris Yeltsin, French President Francois Mitterrand and South African President Nelson Mandela.

And more than 2,000 non-governmental groups have been accredited for participation in the conference, which is costing the United Nations close to \$3 million and Denmark \$30 million for the more than 15,000 visitors.

The summit is the brain-

child of Cbile's U.N.
Ambassador, Juan Somavia, who calls it a "battle for
the soul of the United Nations."

At the minimum, he believes the conference will galvanise governments and the private sector to focus on intractable social and economic issues that are devastating parts of the Third World, Eastern Europe and some urban areas in the West.

Secretary General Boutros Ghali, annoyed hy
media concentration on
U.N. peacekeeping, is determined to put social problems and development in
the forefront of the 50th
anniversary events at the
United Nations this year.

He has made development his top priority saying it is the most sensible remedy for the world's growing political disorder and social disintegration.

social disintegration.

The statistics are gruesome, according to U.N.
literature: Over a billion
people live in poverty, without jobs or basic necessities. About 700 million people are underemployed,
working long hours in jobs
that don't cover basic
needs. Among the world's
poorest, 70 per cent are
women.

Many of the issues have been addressed in greater detail in U.N. conferences on children, population, the environment, human rights and debt. But the overlap with the social summit is a deliberate attempt to integrate the various programmes for poverty eradication.

Among the proposals is one from U.N. agencies dealing with development, children and population which wants nations to approve a so-called "20-20 solution."

This obligates rich nations to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for foreign aid and make sure 20 per cent of that goes for defined programmes — such as basic health and education, particularly for girls and women.

It is hard to forget

By Pascal B. Karmy

NEWS REPORTS recently quoted Israel Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur as saying that "the Jordanian people would like to see the concrete results of the peace and (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin took decisions in this direction. It is, unfortunately, undemable that there is hostility towards Israel among the Jordanian peo-

Mr. Gur's assessment of

this bostility is quite correct but as a military man who participated in many military operations against the Palestinians and the Arabs, he should be quite aware of the reasons for this hostility. He is no doubt aware of the brutal treatment of the Palestinians by Israel in the occupied territories. Does be not realise that Jordanians and Palestinians are like brothers. They bave the same language, culture and religion and they constitute almost the same families by intermarriage. They have lived together in amity for decades on the same territory from 1948 to 1967 and previously for hundreds of years before their territory was divided into two: one Palestinian and the other East Jordan by the Sykes-Picot agree-ment of 1916 and subsequently by the mandatory powers, Britain and France, after World War I.

How can the Jordanians keep quiet or not 'sympathise with the Palestinians when they read and hear and watch the television about Israel's treatment of their brothers the Palestinians and it is natural that this treatment breeds hostility towards Israel.

Let us, however, in this connection consider, whether Israel, after the

connection consider, whether Israel, after the conclusion of the Oslo and Calro agreements and of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, has changed its conduct towards the Palestinians in the occupied territories. In effect the events which occurred after the conclusion of those agreements do not inspire confidence in the intentions of Israel or in keeping up the momentum of the peace process.

Israel directly or indirectly, through its undercover agents, or by its fanatic Jewish settlers, is still killing Palestinians, burning their trees and crops, destroying villages and detaining thousands of Palestinians.

nians without trial. How can the Jordanians and the Palestinians forget the present and past remaind treatment at the hands listage.

Have the Jews forgotten their torture by the Nazis. They have built a huge monument in Jerusalem to commemorate their holocaust and, as I understand, the Jews are huilding another one in New York so as not to forget or for-

give.

After the liberation of their territory, Palestinians also deserve to erect a monument to commemorate their expulsion from their homeland, their killing in Palestine and outside it since the Deir Yassin massacre on April 9, 1948 and thereafter.

With reference to Deir

Yassin massacre, once a debate took place about it between the Israeli ambassador to Canada and the famous British historian Arnold Toynbe in the 1940s. The bistorian Toynbe compared the slanghter, in cold blood, of and peaceful civilians of Deir Yassin to the killing of the Jews in Germany during the World War II. The Israeli ambassador was surprised and even angered at this comparison as he claimed that there was a huge difference between the two massacres. But Mr. Toynbe retorted, indeed there was a difference in

quantity but not in quality.

After all those painful events (to use a mild word), which left deep wounds in the hearts and bodies of the Palestimans, it is not surprising for Mr. Gur to recognise the undeniable hos tility to Israel among the Jordanian people. Just 25 the Jews did not forget of forgive the Nazis for their massacre, neither the Palestinians nor the Jordanians would be able to forget or forgive what the Palestinians have suffered at the hands of Israel for decades. And now what does

Israel want from the Palestinians? In effect, Israel wants the following. It wants peace but it wishes to retain the Jewish settlements and to expand them; it wants peace and security but at the expense of Arab territory; and wants peace but it insists on retaining Jerusalem for self as the eternal capital of Israel in defiance of the Arabs and Muslims.

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One of the many ancient

Featu

Pella

By Rami G. Khouri

Special to the Jordan Times

MOST ANTIQUITIES enthusiasts in Jordan have
probably been to the important ancient city of Pella, in
the northern Jordan Valley,
and some may have even
wandered beyond the Peila
city site to explore the adjacent Wadi Himmeh water
source or the hilltop Hellenistic fortress or Jabai Sar-

Pam Watson, however, had a slightly different notion about how to view the region immediately around Pela. By following her inminds, she and a team of archaeologist-surveyors have uncovered significant new information about the Pella region. In the process, they may have lent important new credence to archaeological surveying research methods that are becoming increasingly vital in new of the urgent need to save ancient sites from destruction in the face of brisk

unanisation and development in the country.

Dr. Watson, the assistant director of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History, worted for many years as a member of the Australian lean that excavated Pella in the late 1970s and 1980s, revaling a large urban centre that has been almost uniterruptedly inhabited during the past eight thousand years — or ever ince the birth of year-

bund settled villages in the Medithic Period.

She always wondered, though, about ancient human use of the abundant satural resources in the surpounding areas. Those

Israeli legisla

(Continued from page 1)

Underlining that Jordan's Leign debts represented 150 per cent of its gross domestic product was impeding the Engdom's ability to shoulder its "functional role," the Crown Prince also noted that the World Bank had stressed the "need for a cooperative strategy among Jordan's main creditors to provide debt reduction and enhanced grants."

"Decisive and timely action by the world commended by the World Bank." said the Crown Prince.

The Crown Prince expressed hope that the visit of the
members of Knesset to Jordan would help them "to an
understanding not only of the
constitutional and procedural
workings of the Jordanier
patliamentary system, but
and economic factors which
determine the ways in which
the system works."

This exchange of information, and the beginning of what we would hope will be increasing contact between the two parliametary which are the

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meeds. Among the work per cent a One of the many ancient wine presses documented by the Pella hinterland survey



A megalithic tomb showing the collapsed radiating stones and central capstone of its roof (Photos courtesy of Pam Watson)

Pella Hinterland Survey reveals wealth of new information

By Rami G. Khouri Special to the Jordan Times

MOST ANTIQUITIES enthusiasts in Jordan have probably been to the imporant ancient city of Pella, in the northern Jordan Valley. and some may have even wandered beyond the Pella city site to explore the adjacent Wadi Himmeh water source or the hilltop Hellenistic fortress or Jabal Sar-

Pam Watson, however, had a slightly different notion about how to view the egion immediately around Pella. By following ber instincts, she and a team of arcbaeologist-surveyors have uncovered significant new information about the Pella region. In the process, they may have lent important new credence to archaeological surveying research methods that are becoming increasingly vital in view of the urgent need to save ancient sites from destruction in the face of brisk urbanisation and develop-

ment in the country. Dr. Watson, the assistant director of the British Instiinte at Amman for Archaeology and History, worked for many years as a member of the Australian team that excavated Pella in the late 1970s and 1980s. revealing a large urban centre that bas been almost uninterruptedly inhabited during the past eight thousand years - or ever since the birth of yearround settled villages in the

Neolithic Period. She always wondered, though, about ancient buman use of the abundant natural resources in the surrounding areas. Those

areas are rich in resources. including gently rolling and well-watered hills to the north and south of Pella, forested mountains to the east, and the fertile flatlands of the Jordan Valley

to the west. In late 1994, she and her colleagues also found out exactly how rich the area is in ancient remains. Dr. Watson and co-director Margaret o'Hea of the University of Adelaide in Australia head a three-year field project entitled the Petra Hinterland Survey, which will systematically explore the entire immediate vicinity around Pella, covering a total area of 36 square kilometres. In six weeks of surveying last year, they covered the northeast quadrant of their survey area, comprising oce-third of the entire area they plan to examine.

In these 12 square

kilometres, they recorded a total of 192 sites, some of which had more than one structure or other ancient features on them; the total number of individual structures or features recorded was 257. These included a wide array of ancient remains, from complete fortresses, villages, farmsteads and towers, to quarries, wine presses, baths, cemeteries, cisterns and towers -- along with less dramatic remains such as wall sections, agricultural terrace walls, scatters of ceramics and chipped stone tools, and carved niches

and gaming boards. The large number of previously undocumented sites within such a small area raises important questions about whether the hinterlands of other ancient town-

sites — of which there are well over one hundred in Jordan — are similarly rich m unknown sites. If so. many sites could be threatened with destruction if they fall within fast expanding urban regions of

the country. Other than the sheer number of new sites it documented, the survey also shed new light on several other facets of Jordan's ancient history and land use. It revealed, for example, the presence of a major wine-growing industry in ancient times, espeeially in the Roman-Byzantine period. Twentytwo different wine presses were documented, along with four farmsteads comprising residential buildings, field walls, agricultural terraces, cisterns and, in two cases, wine presses (one of which was indoors in a room with a mosaic floor). There is no sign of a grape, raisin or wine indus-

try in the area today. One region about three kilometres northeast of Pella is known today as Hod Ed Daliya and Wadi Ed Daliya (basin and valley of vines), perhaps retaining the region's ancient role as an important wine-growing area. (This is not so unusual, given the known history of Jordan. Many Byzantine mosaics throughout the country depict scenes of rural grape and wine industries, the Salt tegion was famous for its wine and raisins until the vines were wiped out by disease in the early decades of this century, and several other ancient sites, such as Khan

Ez Zabib (Raisin Caravan-

serai) sonth of Amman, are

associated with grape-based

The survey project is funded by the British Institute at Amman for Archaelogy and History (in turn funded by the British Academy), and the Australian Research Council. The sponsoring institutions are the British Institute at Amman and the University of

Adelaide. The 1994 survey season's most important discoveries perhaps related to unusual burial systems tenatively dated to the Bronze Age (around 3300-2000 B.C.). The survey team documented a line of megalithic tombs fields running approximately in a northsouth direction, roughly in line with a dolmen field further north.

The megalithic tombs are of a kind that does not seem to have been documented before in this region. Most of them are circular in sbape, with inner and outer wall lines, and some at least had stone roofs made of massive radiating corbelled beams and a round central capstone. The smallest are 2.5 metres in diametre and the largest are a massive 10 metres in diametre. Though not excavated, they are tentatively identified as tombs on the basis of general architectural parallels with other known tombs, and on the basis of visible inner (presumably tomb) cham-

bers in some of them. The dolmen field to the north was also never previously documented, though it falls just beyond the survey area and thus was not fully surveyed. The tombs and dolmens are thought to date from the Chalcolithic and Bronze ages (approximately 4000-

1500 B.C.), based on the findings from excavated dolmens in other parts of

Jordan. The survey provided intriguing new information on defensive/military fortification systems from the late Hellenistic/early Roman era, around the 1st century B.C. The two already known fortresses of Jabah Sartaba and Tell El Hussein have now been joined by three smaller "fortlets" discovered by the surveyors. Two of the fortlets, along with Tell El Hussein, are located along an east-west line to the east of Pella that overlooks a major communications route between the valley and the highlands.

Other identified walls and towers east of Pella seem to form part of a regional fortification system associated with the Tell Abu El Khas site and the Jabal Sartaba fortress. This system appear to have been designed to control the high ground immediately east of Pella. In the late Hellenistic and early Roman periods, the Pella region and much of the rest of central Jordan was constantly contested by the Ptolemies and the Seleucids (the Middle Eastern heirs of Alexander the Great's conquests). Given the fact that some of the forts and fortlets appear to be unfinished, one hypothesis that must be further examined, Dr. Watson suggests, is that these fortifications may have been started by the Ptolemies but then fell into Selecuid hands: subsequently, they were never completed, because the region was relarively

were not necessary. The importance of sur-

veys like this was also heightened by the findings at the Wadi Himmeh, almost two kilometres north of Pella. There, next to the hot mineral water spring, the surveyors identified the remains of a handsome Roman bath house but unfortunately, it had been almost totally destroyed by local buildozing activity, A newly discovered major Byzantine complex in the vicinity was also heavily damaged, and needs to be protected. Another complex similarly associated with a major spring in a different part of the survey area has also been largely destroyed. Such findings suggest that if surveys of this kind could be carried out in the vicinity of all major ancient townsites, we could probably identify and protect scores, if not hundreds, of significant anniquities that are now undocumented and, in many cases, probably threatened with destruc-

From the earliest days of human activity on Earth, the surveys identified at least 18 sites with the remains of scattered stone chipped tools; an ininal, cursory field assessment suggests they date mainly from the Paleolithic-Epipaleolithic periods (dating back from between 12,000 to 50,000 ??? years ago). Most of the stone tools sites are located in areas of limestone conglomerate that also contains

many flint and chert nodules. The survey team identi-

fied four stratified tells con-

taining the remains of

several successive ancient settlements from different periods, located several kilometres way from Pella. They all have remains from the Roman-Byzantine period, when Pella probably reached its greatest size, though some have pre-dominantly Bronze-to-Iron Age evidence, and one tell contains mainly medieval remains. Deir Él Asal village, several kilometres east of Pella, has significant remains from the medieval period - a time when the main site at Pella appears to bave supported only a small

It is possible that due to natural causes (earthquakes, water supply problems, land salinity) or other reasons the site of Pella was largely abandoned by the medieval period, and the main urban centre in the region shifted several kilometres to the east. It is already known from excavations that in the Abbassid period, starting in the mid-8th century, the main mound at Pella was almost totally abandoned in favour of a new townsite in a small adjacent valley to the

The survey confirms that the entire region around Pella had been intensively used in the Roman-Byzantine periods in a peaceful and stable regional context, with a great deal of agricultural activity and little need for the largescale defensive fortification systems that were more common during the late Hellenistic-early Roman periods. Because the Roman-Byzantine period exploitation of the region

was so intensive, it prob-

ably obscures some of the earlier uses of the land; the survey clearly confirms that the area had been used for many different purposes, throughout virtually the full span of recorded human

Only excavations can reveal the full ancient history of the region and its many newly identified sites. The extensive remains of at least 7 agricultural terrace and field walls, for example, are impossible to date without excavations or only on the basis of architectural parallels, as can often be done with structures such as grape presses, fortresses or burial cairns. The same pertains to the 19 ancient stone quarries that were documented.

Later this year, the survey team will work in the area immediately southeast of Pella, and expects its findings to be rather similar to last year's discoveries, given the similar nature of the landscape. The large amount of new information gleaned from the survey's first season has already allowed us to better place the large Roman-Byzantine city of Pella within its regional context, including revealing new information about grape-based agro-

industries that were not

The project team in 1994

along with the co-directors.

included Eddie Moth.

well attested before.

Robyn Stocks, Chantelle Hoppe. Samantha Gibbins, Rupert Van Der Werff, Kathryn Ripley, and Jordanian Department of Antiquities representatives Hikmat Ta'ani and Ismael Melhem.

Israeli legislators visit core of the democranic system (Continued from page 1)

Underlining that Jordan's foreign debts represented 150

per cent of its gross domestic product was impeding the Kingdom's ability to shoulder "functional role," the Crown Prince also noted that the World Bank had stressed "need for a cooperative strategy among Jordan's main creditors to provide debt reduction and enhanced "Decisive and timely ac-

tion by the world community is strongly recommended by the World Bank," said the Crown Prince. The Crown Prince express-

ed hope that the visit of the nembers of Knesset to Jordan would help them "to an understanding not only of the constitutional and procedural workings of the Jordanian parliamentary system, but also of the political, social and economic factors which determine the ways in which the system works."

This exchange of information, and the beginning of what we would hope will be an increasing contact between the two parliametary institutions which are the

in both our countries, is an important first step in the direction of what I hope you will agree should be our common aim: to lay the foundation of a genuine peace be-tween our peoples," he said.

In a reply speech, Speaker Weiss thanked the King and the Crown Prince for the invitation to the Knesset members to visit Jordan and said the ideas expressed by the Crown Prince in his speech were realistie in view of the actual situation on the Noting that the legislators'

visit came after the Knesset ratified the peace treaty with Jordan with an absolute majority this week, Mr. Weiss said: "We overcame a lot of obstacles. "As Knesset members we

bave influence on the decision-makers in Israel since we represent the Jewish, Arab and Druze (political powers)," he said.
Mr. Weiss expressed

admiration of King Hussein's courage and efforts to bridge the gaps between the peoples of the two countries. The delegation left Amman late Sunday.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

(Continued from page 1)

Israel keeps siege

(\$330 million) annually as compensation for lost income. The idea was not brought to a vote.

Despite the confinued closure, Israeli officials on Sunday praised the Palestinians' thwarting of a planned attack over the weekend as sign of stepped-up PLO efforts. We mark with great sans-

faction the latest steps taken by the Palestinian Authority. They... will certainly have a positive effect on the continuation of the negotiations," said Mr. Sarid. "But we are still awaining further steps," he added.

Acting on a tip from their Israeli counterparts, Palestinian agents on Saturday captured three militants who planned to explode a carbomb either in Israel or at the King Hussein Bridge between the West Bank and Jordan, an Israeli security

source said. The Israeli daily Haaretz reported Palestinian troopsfoiled four planned largescale attacks against Israelis in the past two weeks. In one case, PLO police confiscated weapons from Palestinians stopped at a roadblock, the

report said.

In another, PLO forces stopped a 15-year-old boy planning to blow bimself up near the Jewish settlement of Dugit in the Gaza Strip, said a Palestinian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal confirmed he had reports of Palestinian police preventing planned attacks, but added that Israel was still not satisfied with the measures.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet noted that no suspects have been extradited from the self-rule areas to Israel and that Mr. Arafat has not disarmed hardline

"The Palestinians' action is very far from what we want, Mr. Shetreet said.

A PLO official said Sunday Palestinian police in selfruled Gaza bave freed two Islamie Jihad leaders detained after last month's bombing.

The police also arrested four other militants of the

Israel has demanded that Palestinian police crack down on militants as a condition for progress in implementing a long-delayed army troop pullout from West Bank towns under the 1993 Israeli-PLO peace deal.

The PLO security official said police bad so far detained 15 members of Islamie Jihad, two of whose men carried out the suicide bombing in Israel on Jan. 22. The bombers were from Gaza.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Israel Radio that despite recent reports of guerrilla attacks foiled by the PLO-led police we are still unbappy with their lack of determination" in hunting down and jailing guerrillas.

Islamic Jihad sources said two activists, Jamil Mutaweh and Abdullah Al Sabeh, were detained on Saturday, and two more, Nidal Rahim and Taiser Aziz, on Sunday. PLO sources said the de-

stable by the early Roman

era and such security works

tained men were on a list of fuginives, and more wanted men were still in hiding. The official said the freed men were Omar Fourah and

Abdullab Al Zaqq. They were cleared of direct involvement in the bombing, Among those still in custody is Islamic Jihad spokesman Abdullah Al Sbami.

Last month's suicide bombing, the latest in a series that has killed scores of Israelis, further strained slow-moving talks on extending self-rule to all of the West

U.S. stand

Heading into a critical meeting with Middle East foreign ministers next weekend, the Clinton administration is rejecting an Egypnan demand that Israel set a deadline for withdrawing its troops from the West

Instead, Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to concentrate on new security safeguards for Israelis, a senior U.S. official said. Unlike past meetings, this

one will branch out into relatively unfamiliar areas, such as coordinating the impact of Israel's peace agreements with Jordan and the PLO on their economies. The Washington conference, which was scheduled at last week's summit in Cairo, will also try to restart stalled negotiations between Israel and Syria.

The Cairo summit, which covered a wide range of issues, essentially sought to put Israeli-PLO negonations back on track. Israel, Jordan, Egypt and

the PLO are sending their foreign ministers to Washington, out Syria and Lebanon are not. They also did not participate in the Cairo Summit Syrian Ambassador Walid

Al Mouallam is expected to return shortly to Washington from an extended vacation. and State Department officials say they will urge him to resume negotiations with Israel's ambassador, Itamar Rabinovich.

More promising for American and Middle East peacemakers is the prospect of spurring Israel's negotiations with the PLO

However, Israel cannot be expected to accelerate its withdrawal of troops from the area until it is confident the PLO can improve security conditions, said the senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The State Department shares Israel's view that Mr. Arafat can do better. But the U.S. official credited the PLO leader with making more of an effort in recent days. In fact, he said, the PLO preempted two planned attacks on Israelis.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa last week blamed Israel for the increase in violence and said Israel should set a deadline for withdrawing its troops.

You can't set a deadline for an Israeli withdrawal," the U.S. official said. "You need to restore confidence, and that's one of the things the ministers will be working

Israel, Jordan advance

(Continued from page 1) the alottude. While Jordan sought "free ascent and descent rights" without any restrictions, Israel originally wanted a ceiling of 11,000 In subsequent negotia-

tions, Israel, which says that flights over 11,000 feet would interfere with its military training flights, agreed not to impose the ceiling restrictions at certain rimes during some days of the week. But Jordan was seeking fullyfree overflight rights. We hope that we will be

able 10 conclude an agreement soon," Mr. Dahabi told Petra. Low-level flights through

(sraeli airspace on its European flights would automatically eliminate the fuel saving and Israel.

the airline would have by flying across Israel to get to the Mediterranean. Hence, RI stands to gain little by agreeing to the Israeli conditions, aviation expens say. The RJ-El Al commercial

agreement on tourists, which in essence also hinges on the broader accord being negonated on civil aviation, provides for tourists from the U.S. to be flown to Amman or Agaba (in the case of RJ) and to Tel Aviv or any other Israeli airport (in the case of El Al) and fly them out in the reverse order.

The essence of the agreement is that if RJ brings in a group of tourists to Amman/ Agaba, El Al will fly them out from Israel after they spend equal time in Jordan

Arab League head to visit Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Amr Musa and Palestinian Minister for International Cooperation Nabil Shaath and Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's (PLO) political affairs (foreign affairs) chief. Dr. Shaath said an esti-

mated one million people would be concerned by a return of displaced persons from the 1967 conflict. At the time, 350,000 people fled to Jordan, 100,000 to Egypt and several thousand more settled in Syria and Lebanon, he

According to the declaration of principles signed by 1srael and the PLO in September 1993, the four parties are to decide on terms for the return of Palestinians displaced in 1967 from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

The fate of Palestinians who fled their homeland during the first Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948 is due to be discussed by May 1996 at the

Mr. Musa read a statement saying: "These meetings affirmed the importance of this subject (letting refugees back), which is linked to the right to return and to the fact that the Palestinian people have a right to feel a tangible

benefit from the peace pro-

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KUWAIT (R) - Unemoloyment will cause unrest in Arab Gulf states if millions of new jobs are not created in the next 15 years and reliance on foreign workers is no: reduced, a Kuwaiti economist said in remarks published

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Dependence on expatriate manpower, a shortage of local skills and reluctance to do menial work will make it very difficult to create sufficien jobs, economist Jassem Al Saadoun said in a speech quoted by the Englishlanguage Arab Times.

Mr. Saadoun made his comments in a recent speech to a conference in Dubai on economic development in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qalar and Kuwait, the newspaper

On current trends, the

to 39.4 million by 2010 from 25 million at the end of 1995. Those under 19, on the verge of joining the job markets, would rise to 21 million from 13.2 million, he said.

"This would mean an increase of eight million people in the labour market," he

"Planners and decision makers must then attempt to create enough jobs for the newcomers or face the alternative - severe unemployment with possibilities of social and political extremism. All available signs point to the latter happening," he

cautioned. Expatriate manpower formed 90 per cent of the workforce in the United Arab Emirates, 83 per cent in Qatar, 82 per cent in Kuwait, 69 per cent in Saudi Arabia and 60 per cent in Bahrain, Mr. Saadoun said, adding

Oman was believed to have similar figures.

He said GCC states should impose restrictions on immigration since the severe imbalance between expatriate and national workforce posed a very serious threat to national security.

"In times of prosperity there is enough for all. But in times of economic difficulty, divisions surface because available resources may not be sufficient," be said.

"If this phenomenon is not handled properly without, seeking the assistance of security agencies, the possibility of violent clashes could become inevitable," he added.

The GCC states have for years guaranteed full employment for their nationals by using large oil revenues to create government jobs for them. They employ foreigners to do menial or spe-

Mr. Saadoun, an adviser to Kuwait's oppositiondominated parliament, said in most GCC states unemployment had started appeariog among university graduly educated, had unwanted skills or made excessive wage

cialised work nationals are

unwilling or unqualified to

demands. "People think that because of the large number of expatriates it will not be difficult to replace them with national manpower. The reality is otherwise." he pointed out.

"Most expatriates are working in unskilled and lowly paid jobs that are unattractive to nationals. Other expatriates are doing highly skilled jobs that nationals are not qualified to do, thus making replacement very difficult," he said.

Although the U.S. unemployment rate is up slightly, President Bill Clinton chose to accentuate the positive inbis Saturday radio address, claiming credit for nearly six million iobs created in his two years in office.

Mr. Clinton also promoted anew his proposal for a 90cent increase in the \$4.25per-hour minimum wage spread over two years and pointed out that members of Congress make more in one month than people making the minimum wage earn all year, which is about \$9,000.

"Nobody can live on \$4.25 an hour, and yet, 2.5 million Americans are working for just that amount, and many of them have children to

feed," he said. Mr. Clinton and his advisers feel the president has not been given the traditional credit due the chief executive for an improving economy, which has been the best news going for a troubled adminis-

"Since I took office two years ago, nearly six million month." new jobs have come into our economy (and) the unemployment rate has dropped more than 20 per cent," he

Adding to the good news, he said, is the fact that 1994 was the best year for economic growth in 10 years in the United States, and the combined rates of unemployment and inflation are the lowest they've been in 25 years."

Mr. Clinton did not mention the government statistic released Friday that said the U.S. unemployment rate jumped to 5.7 per cent in January, up from 5.4 per cent in December, and the number of new jobs created fell to its lowest in a year.

White House economic advisers have given a caotious ioterpretatin of the latest jobless report. Laura Tyson, chair of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, said Friday it "might suggest some moderation in the growth of employment" but that "it's very hard to ascertain a trend from ooe

Analysts interpreted the news as a signal that the ecocomy, which grew at a rapid 4.5 per cent clip in the final quarter of 1994, may be losing steam after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates seven times in the past year. Mr. Clinton said he was

proud of bis economic record but that he was aware that "far too many Americans" bave not benefitted from the recovery and that his "middle class bill of rights" would provide education tax breaks

to belp people get ahead. Another way to help would be an increase in the minimum wage employers are required to pay their workers. Mr. Clioton's proposal, unveiled Friday, would raise it 45 cents a year for two years, topping out at \$5.15 an hour. Republicans in control of

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WASHINGTON (AFP) - The

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Volume 19 Number 583

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Congress promised to look at the plan but generally were sceptical, saying an increase would force employers to cut their workforces. They had joined with Democrats in 1989 to approve an identical 90-cent, two-year rise in the

minimum wage. Mr. Clinton said be believes an increase is related to the overall goal of both Republicans and Democrats this year of reforming the U.S. welfare system because it would reward people for their labour.

"If we're really serious about welfare reform, increasing the minimum wage will plainly belp," be said.

Israeli cabinet cancels capital gains tax

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel's cabinet voted Sunday to cancel an unpopular capital gains tax. in a move aimed at bolstering the sagging stock market and restoring confidence in the economy.

The tax on stock market profits, which was to go into effect Jan. 1 but had not been implemented, was cancelled by a vote of 13-2, said government secretary Shmuel Hollander.

Politically, the flip-flops have eroded Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's credibility at a crucial juncture in the peace process with the Arabs and at a time of declining popularity over continuing terrorism.

The tax was widely blamed for worsening a collapse of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which lost about 40 per cent of its value in the past year. Since reports last week that the tax would be cancelled, the market rose 12 per cent. On Sunday, however, the Mishtanim index fell 3.6 per

cent, closing at 166.83. Former finance minister Yitzhak Modai said the market's instability proved it was fundamentally unhealthy. "It wasn't the tax that brought down the stock market, and its cancellation will not revive it," Mr. Modai told army

Hanna Pridan, an analyst for Bank Leumi, attributed the sluggisb market to the past year's nearly 15 per cent inflation rate, which, given the stability of the Israeli sbekel against the dollar, bas cut into exporters' profits.

Mr. Rabin agreed to the stock tax six months ago, arguing it would help fight inflation. Later, be backed away from that argument and implied he was misled by economists.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your greatest benefits can come now by being altrustic and lend a helping hand to allies and good friends so you can have the benefit of their friendship.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) The measure of your success in the New Year is measured by the intelligence with which you handle others and everyone you meet in the outside world.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Today is the start of a new cycle which is about to begin for you and now is the time to make the most of any enterprise that you are currently working on.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Excellent bunches will be yours on this day and it would be wise to write them down for use in the future. Follow your intuition.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you want to gain greater success oday, it is a good time to get together with associates and come to far better understanding.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Express the Virgo motto serve," whenever possible now since you can gain much in the future by being kind, attruistic and caring to those around you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have been much tested in the past as to parience and goodness, but now things begin to happen for you. Do not hesitate to accept invitations and to prepare for a successful and happy future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Many situations will require intelligent thought and handling so that you may achieve the harmony you desire. Make it a point today to invite interesting parties to interesting events.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a seeking and inquiring mind and if you make the effort to contact highly philosophical individuals you will gain new wisdom and many new constructive ideas for the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A day to think out how to better your position in life, make home conditions more harmonious, and expand in every direction possible.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) By being very dynamic and happy today you will please others so much that you increase your circle of friends appreciably among the worthwhile. This lead to the success you deserve.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make this a day for meditation and the absorption of finer philosophical ideas that will place you more in the tune with what is right and proper.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ask for free trade agreement with U take effect in the absence of a lack of local Palestinian olive oil are negotiated by tion and encourage joint in-

CAIRO (AFP) - The PLO will ask for direct trade links with the United States during talks in Egypt this week aimed at boosting the economies of the Middle East. senior Palestinian official Nabil Shaath said Sunday.

The meeting will discuss the possibility of reaching a free-trade agreement with the United States and developing trade among Israel. the PLO, Jordan and Egypt," Mr. Sbaath told AFP.

"Until now we must go through Israel to export to the United States and we want to lift barriers blocking our trade with Egypt, Jordan and the United States," said the self-rule authority's minister of international cooperation.

Exports like farm products, textiles, flowers and regional economic coopera-

Israeli firms, while imports to the self-rule Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho are still subject to

Israeli taxes. Unprecedented economic talks begin Tuesday in the Red Sea resort of Taba between the United States and Egypt, which will be joined Wednesday by Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Au-

thority. Ron Brown, who stopped Sunday in Cairo on bis way to Egypt for the talks, said the meeting was an important new step toward peace, according to Egypt's Middle

U.S. Commerce Secretary Tel Aviv before returning to

East News Agency. Mr. Sbaath said "we want to take part in the plan for

vestments in the autonomous areas, because we can no longer count on international

"We want to ensure our economic development through investments," he According to Israeli statis-

tics, the Palestinians exported \$270 million worth of products from the Gaza Strip and West Bank last year, including \$180 million worth to Israel.

They imported \$1.1 billion worth of products, including \$1 billion from Israel.

Under economic accords signed in Paris in 1994, Israel must hand over to the Palestinian Authority the right to tax imports entering the Gaza Strip and Jericho. But this system has yet to

Palestinian ports.
According to PLO official Maidi Al Khalidi, the talks in Taba will discusss laying economic foundations like roads. electric and gas networks, and Palestinian-Israeli industrial zones.

Funding for the projects has yet to be decided but is expected to be covered by bilateral or multilateral loans, according to Mr. Khalidi, who serves in the selfrule authority's "ministry" of planning.

Self-rule has been put in jeopardy by poverty and Islamic militant violence.

Mr. Khalidi said the meeting would also approve the creation of regional trade regulations, investment laws and training programme as a first step in cooperation.

"We still need a proper customs areas for trade with Egypt and Jordan," Mr. Khalidi said.

He had no figures for the export of Palestinian goods since the start of autonomy, but said the Israeli income from the export of West Bank and Gaza products in 1993 was \$350 million.

A lack of clear investment laws hass so far kept businessmen away from the Palestinian autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho. International experts have stressed the importance of the Palestinian private sector

as international assistance, set at \$2.4 billion over five yers, would eventually run Donors met recently in Gaza to improve the flow of

funds, hampered in 1994 by

world's richest countries also

said they were optimistic ab-

out the state of the global

Economic growth bas been

robust, inflation is moderate,

job creation is improving and

unemployment rates are fall-

ing in most countries, Mr.

"The challenge now is to

ensure that we sustain

growth." Mr. Martin said.

adding that there was no

room for complacency on

getting budget deficits down.

institutions and of coordination among the donor countries, the World Bank and the United Nations. Out of some \$800 million

pledged, only \$228 million came through and were mostly spent on the Palestinian self-rule authority's recurrent expenses such as salaries. Samir Abdallah, head of

the project department of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), said some \$600 million have been pledged for 1995. The money will mostly be

funnelled toward education, health and rehabilitation of the badly damaged infras-

PECDAR channels the

tructure, be said. Palestinian authority's international funds.

G-7 unanimously endorse Mexico rescue governor in December, said

he was grateful that Japan's

G-7 partners expressed con-

dolences over the Kobe earthouake, which killed more than 5,000 people. But the G-7 had harsher words for Russia, saying that they are concerned the recent rise in inflation and the war in Chechenya may throw Mos-

cow off the course of econo-

mic reform. "The G-7 strongly encourage the Russian government to remain on the path to a market economy, an objective that can only be furthered by a timely agreement with the IMF on a standby (loan) agreement for Rus-

Mr. Martin said. The IMF, the world's monetary watchdog, negotiates loans to belp economic reforms in developing countries, often with tough conditions attached.

Balladur aims for deficit cuts without tax hikes PARIS (R) - Prime Minischanges and reforms without The I

ter Edouard Balladur. MINOR favourite to win the French presidency, has set a target of ports. cutting the budget deficit without tax hikes and porbwtse trayed himself as the candicate of orinless reform. in his first televised inter-

mm=: view since declaring bis canmpor didacy last month, Mr. Ballacaliate dur hit out at rivals prescrib- ing radical aconomic and so-The dial thange, saying: The ess it French people to not want to Uniter experimented on like Guinea berice pigs." les of Cro Credited by opinion colls

rods: candidates in the April-May
U.S election, Mr. Balladur said Micke the French wanted to turn the dion r page after economic crises trade and 14 years under Socialist

ing e with a big load over all other

he said, pushing a message of optimism and unity. Mr. Balladur, 65 and often criticised as uninspiring and

current state of the nation's and the welfare system's accounts, a massive cut is not possible without new taxes on the other side." "Since I do not want to

imposing more suffering on the French people who bave already suffered so much."

aloof, said he did not aim to raise taxes as president but that reducing France's budget and welfare deficits would take priority over tax cuts.
Cutlining his tax plans, Mr.
Balladur said: "Given the

create new taxes, I think on the contrary we must wait for the recovery to create jobs... We will only be able to seriously consider culting when we have lowered the

deficit," he poined out.

TORONTO (R) - The world's seven leading industrial powers put aside differences and unanimously gave their blessing Saturday to a U.S.-led \$50 billion rescue

package for Mexico. After two days of talks, finance ministers and central bankers from the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada expressed "total satisfaction" with efforts to aid Mexico.

"The support is unequivoc-

al for the American pack-

age." said Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin, who chaired the meeting of the so-called Group of Seven (G-7) nations at a Toronto botel. Leading up to the two-day meeting, the United States and its European allies were at odds over the handling of a \$50 billion bailout U.S. Presi-

dent Bill Clinton had cobbled

together at the last minute for

As part of the deal, Mr. Clinton said that the U.S. allies would contribute to a \$10 billion loan package for Mexico through the Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would make its biggest-ever loan of \$17.8 billion to Mex-

In a rare show of diplomatic pique, half a dozen European countries, including Germany and Britain, abstained when the board of the IMF voted on the Mexico rescue Wednesday, saying the U.S. had not properly

consulted them. The G-7 tried Saturday to brush aside the rift, with Mr. Martin emphasising that support for the U.S.-led effort

had been unanimous. The exclusive club of the

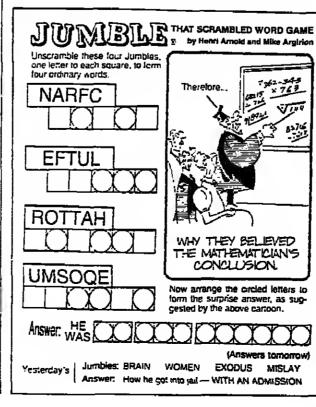
Japan assured its partners that its economy could continue to grow despite the damage from the Kohe earthquake in January. Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Japan is making its best efforts to cope with reconstruction.

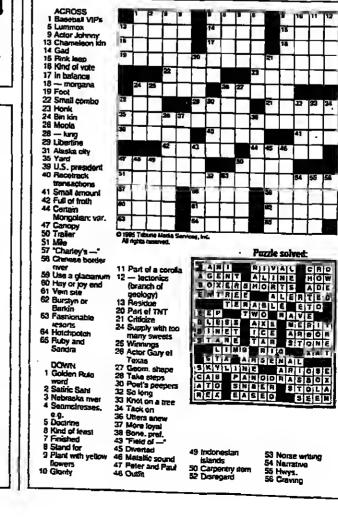
Martin said.

The Bank of Japan's Masavoshi Matsushita, who was appointed central bank



"If I treat you nice, you'll expect the whole world to treat you nice! I'd just be setting you up for disappointment!"





by the President Francois Mitter-"W rand. "Growth has returned... it will allow us to make more

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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

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☆☆ A top official source denied that the government had made a deal with the U.S. government to import 50,000 Ford cars to be assigned to Jordanian officials. The source said Jordan did not discuss this issue at the governmental level. According to market sources, the cars would cost less than JD 5,000 each and could be exempt from customs duty. The official said the government cannot presently afford the cost of these cars which would amount to about \$250 million. He added tthat if rumours are based on the Americans' intention to provide the cars as part of the U.S. assistance to Jordan. then the issue is purely of American concern but the government had not made any request in that regard (Al

* Al Zara-Ghor Hadithah road had been aspbalted and is ready for official opening. The road is 31.5-kilometre long and is intended to serve the tourism industry as well as other economic sector in the Jordan Valley. The road, which links the northern and southern parts of the Kingdom and which runs parallel to the Desert Road to the west, will be a suitable alternative in case of emergency during the winter season (Al Dustour).

* The Department of Land and Survey collected JD 5.3 million in fees during January, 28 per cent higher than the amount collected during the same month of last year (Al Ra'i).

** The Bank for the Development of Cities and Villages extended credits amounting to JD 462,000 to eleven local councils during January (Al Ra'i).

* The Income Tax Department will be opening a directorate in Russeifah before mid-year. The directorate will collect the income tax from residents of Russeifah, Yajouz, Al Msherfeh, Jabal Faisal and the surrounding areas which are now under the Zarqa directorate (Al Ra'i).

** The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) expects to earn \$6 million from exports of tomato paste this year. AMPCO needs 70,000 tonnes of fresh tomatoes to produce about 10,000 tonnes, 3,000 tonnes of which will be for local market needs (Al

** Local consumption of cement is expected to reach two million tonnes next year with export contracts at 650,000 tonnes and the possibility of supplying cement to the West Bank (Sawt Al Shaab).

** Workers at the Jordan Glass Factory have sent a petition to the prime minister requesting that the general di ki management of the company move its premises to Ma'an non in to facilitate working proce-San C dures and economise on rent spending (Al Ra'i).

hreads Ax According to statistics issued by the Ministry of Industry and Trade a total of dustry and Trade a total of 140 companies with a JD 21.4 million capital were registered at the ministry in December 1994, compared to 165 companies with JD 28.4 million capital in December 1993. The number of companies which were dissolved in December 1994 was 70 with a JD 582,000 in capital. Foreign investments by five companies during the last month of 1994 totalled JD

hence 450,000 (Al Aswaq).

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BCCI ready to compensate depositors in UAE

decision.

within 40 days of the court

"Disbursements will start

by the summer, as some tech-

nical procedures need to be

sorted out first," said Mr. Abdul Aziz, adding that the

40 per cent compensation

would benefit both small and

Most of the depositors with

BCC1 in the UAE are fore-

igners. His comments

quashed rumours that small

should strengthen their finan-

cial position. They were

forced to set aside a large

part of their profits in loan

large depositors.

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has withdrawn enough assets to compensate thousands of its local creditors and payments will begin within a few months, officials said Sunday.

More than 30,000 creditors in the Gulf country will receive compensation representing up to 40 per cent of their deposits, half of which were placed in the local marker, said Abdul Aziz Said, court receiver for BCCI.

"Collection of the BCCI assets here and ahroad is underway and BCCI officials are now ready to pay the depositors. There is enough liquidity to give them up to 40 told AFP, without giving any

Deposits with BCCI's eight branches in the Emirates were estimated at around \$1.22 billion before it was shut worldwide in July 1991 amid allegations of massive fraud involving more than

The assets, half of which wree based in the UAE, stood at nearly \$2.72 billion, according to the bank's 1990 balance sheets.

Last week a Luxembourg court approved a \$1.8 billion compensation offer by majority shareholders for the near-250,000 creditors worldwide, clearing the way for payouts after more than two years of legal wrangling.

The offer had already been endorsed by courts in Britain and Grand Cayman, whee BCCI also had headquarters. But an appeal against the

creditors would get all their money back. Several UAE hanks and companies had depoists with BCCI and the compensation

loss provision. The Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) was one of the biggest depositors with BCCl, with funds of around 300 million dirhams (\$81.7 million). Oman to invest \$3b in oil

The BCCI collapse prevented DIB distributing profits to its shareholders for

JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW

MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
THE ROUSING BANK

BANKS SECTOR

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JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /KEW
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER /KEW
JORDAN ELMEH HINERAL
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I

SERVICES SECTOR

JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES

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JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING
THE PUBLIC MINING
RAFIA INDUSTRIES
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settlement is still possible three years, but it approved a cash dividend of six per cent of the capital in 1995, when net profits setood at 17 mil-

lion dirhams (\$4.63 million). Bankers said DIB made profits after it was forced to place an annual deposit of around 50 million dirhams (\$13.6 million) with the central bank.

Last year, DIB became the biggest Islamic bank in the world after it doubled its capital to 420 million dirhams (\$114.4 million). Officials said the bank had fully recovered from the BCCl crisis and they expected a surge in 1994 profits to 28 million dirhams (\$7.62 million).

"Whether we get 40 per cent of 100 per cent does not make any differences now. We have waited for a long time and we nearly gave up," said Ibrahim Atteyya, a BCCI depositor in the UAE. "At least I am recovering

part of my money.' Abu Dhabi, the main oilproducing emirate in the UAE, owned 77 per cent of

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BCC1, which was one of the biggest financial institutions in the world before it was closed in 1991 and ordered liquidated a year later. It had assets of more than \$20 billion and branches in nearly 70

countries. Several BCCI defendants, mostly Pakistanis with British citizenship, will reappear in cours here next Saturday for further appeal hearings.

Two defendants are being tried in absentia.

Former BCCI chief executive Mohammad Swaleh Naqvi was extradited to the United States, where he was sentenced to 11 years in prison in October on charges related to the BCCl collapse.

He and the other defendants, apart from one who was acquitted, were sentenced in Abu Dhabi to prison terms ranging from three to 14 years and ordered to pay around \$9 billion in compensatin to UAE President Zayed Ben Sullan Al Nahayan and other BCCl owners,

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Dubai landlords shrug off soft property market

DUBAI (R) - Dubai's land- 80,000 and 10,000 dirhams lords are shrugging off signs of a soft property market and pouring cash into building high-rise apartment blocks. despite a growing oversupply that is driving rents down.

Even higher building costs, mainly due to increased cement prices, are not acting as a brake on investment. analysts say.

In the absence of a formal stock market, property is a popular investment vehicle among nationals, a fact borne out by the large number of cranes cluttering the city sky-

"This (real estate) is a tradinonal area of investment for Gulf investors - indeed the area in which most of the local family fortunes have been made," a banker says.

According to estate agents. the residential market in Dubai — the second largest emirate and commercial centre of seven in the United Arab Emirates — is saturated and rents have fallen by more than 10 per cent in the past few months.

"Rents came down sharply at the end of 1994... 150,000 dirham (\$40,872) villa is now going for 110,060 (\$29,972)," general manager at estate agents Golden Gulf B.J. Jethani says, referring to annual rental costs.

Tenants, used to paying high prices for accommodation, are beginning to breathe easier. Bul landlords are frustrated.

Agents are having a lough time as competition for tenants hears up and they rry to persuade owners to cul rents.

"We're telling landlords the market is the boss. Since 1988 they have been lucky, now they're having to bite the bullet and drop rents," says Linda Mahoney, managing director of local agents Better Homes. Around 80 per cent of

Dubai's population of almost

600,000 are expatriates, who are not permitted to own property. Most live in modest flats, while nationals and higher-earning foreigners live in luxurious villas or spacious apartments.

Board puts the annual rent of a "good quality," two-bedroom apartment at be-tween 40,000 dirhams to find a final solution to this (\$10,900) and 55,000 dirhams

and Tourism Promotion

A "good quality medium-sized villa" goes for between week.

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(\$21,800-\$27,250), while a luxury one can cost up to 150,000 dirhams (\$40,875) it

The manager at large private landowner Arenco Real Estate. Rory O'Connor. labels the current slowdown in the pace of rent rises a short-term correction. He says the longer-term trend is higher, despite the current oversupply.

Construction companies say landlords are confident the growing number of re-sidential blocks will be filled as the economy expands and more foreigners are attracted 10 Dubai's low-duty environ-

Emirates Universal Construction managing director S.N. Mankani singles out Hong Kong's return to Chinese control in 1997 as a major reason for the flurn of

building.
"Dubai is gearing up to attract some of the foreign companies from Hong Kong. There is an expectation of an influx of people."

He says the cost of building a residential block has risen io between 160 and 175 oithams (S++\$+8) a square foot from between 145 and 155 dirhems (\$40-\$42) a year

Laing Emirates managing airector Bruce Foot says that while industry costs are rising, the market is still ; buoyant.

'There's a lot of tendering activity and no reduction in the number of enquiries we're receiving," he said.

But the large number of contracting firms in Dubai makes it a very competitive market to work in and profit margins are narrow, Mr. Foot says. "Owners certainly are gatting good value for their money.

According to officials, United Arab Emirates (UAE) needs to pump more than \$5 billionin the next few years to tackle a housing crisis caused by a rapid growth in the native population.

As government allocations for housing lag far behind actual needss, applications by In its latest business hand- national families seeking book, the Dubai Commerce homes have accumulated to nearly 25,000 and they cou exceed 40,000 by the year

> problem," the Public Works and Housing Ministry said in a letter to the cabinet this

La Gequette

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per cent of their funds," he

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - Oman intends to pump more than \$3 billion into its oil industry until the year 2000 as part of overall expansion in the energy sec-tor, an Omani official said

Sunday. The investment do not cover a multi-billion-dollar plant to tap the Gulf state's gas reserves, which have grown to 25 trillion cubic feet (750 billion cubic metres) from 20 trillion cubic feet (600 billion cuhic metres), said Salim Ibn Mohammad Shaaban, oil ministry undersecretary.

'Oman will invest more than \$3 billion in oil explora-

tion and production during the coming 1996-2000 development plan," he told the London-based Al Hayat newspaper.

He said the figures did not include spending of between \$1.8 billion and \$1.9 billion by the Omani government ona \$6 billion gas liquefaction plant with an output capacity of six million tonnes per year.

Oma has been involved in negotiations with potential LNG huyers in South Korea and Japan so it will press ahead with the project, its first gas industry. Officials bave said the project will go on stream in six years.

Financial

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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 30-February 3, 1995)

Jordan Times

AMMAN - The dollar rose modestly against the mark and yen and sharply against sterling at the end of last week. It ended the week 0.79 per cent higher against the mark, 1.64 per cent higher against sterling and 0.47 per cent higher against the yen.

At the beginning of the week, the dollar depreciated against other major currencies. Its decline was attributed to dealers' worries that the U.S. Congess might reject extending \$40 billion in Joan guarantees to Mexico. These worries were ignited when the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee asked the Mexican government to reach an agreement with its creditors to secure the desired

The dollar rose sharply against other major currencies Tuesday, when U.S. President Bill Clinton, managed to put together a plan to extend loans to Mexico, which did not require Congressional approval. The new plan included \$47.5 billion loans to Mexico to be financed through the U.S. Treasury, the International Monetary Fund and the

Bank for International Settlements.

The U.S. unit retreated Wednesday, however, despite a Fed tightening. The Federal Open Market Committee's (FOMC) meeting resulted in a 0.5 per cent increase in both the Fed funds rate and the discount rate to reach 6.0 percent and 5.25 per cent respectively. The dollar was little affected by the Fed's move, which had already been discounted by the market.

The dollar declined marginally against other major currencies Thursday. Reports indicated that trading was thin, as dealers were anticipating the release of U.S. employment report the following day.

At the end of the week, the dollar rose sharply against other major guarantees. Its rebound came on the back of a

other major currencies. Its rebound came on the back of a U.S. stock and bond market rally. The U.S. financial markets rallied in view of the release of U.S. employment figures indicating that the U.S. economy is experiencing modest growth. The dollar also gained ground on mark sales by European central banks who sold marks for dollars

to support their currencies against the mark.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5270 marks. 99.85 yen and at \$1.5635 to sterling.

New York Cleaing Rates for Major Currencles Against the U.S. Dollar

27/1/1995 Close	3/2/1995 Close	Percent Change
1.5895	1.5635	1.64%
1.5150	1.5270	0.798
1-2736	1.2935	1.54%
5.2595	5.2930	0.638
99.38	99.85	0.478
	1.5895 1.5150 1.2736 5.2595	1.5895 1.5635 1.5150 1.5270 1.2736 1.2935 5.2595 5.2930

Currency	27/1/	27/1/1995		93
	I-Mostk(%)	-)-Year (%)	I-Month (%)	(-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.75	7.12	6.06	6.93
Sterling Pound	6.00	7.56	6.56	7.69
Deutsche Mark	4.68	5.50	4.87	5.63
Swiss Franc	3.30	4.37	3.50	4.37
French Franc	5.31	6.45	5.43	6.56
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.18		2.42

Date: 3/2/1995

Ситтепсу	314	Öffer
U.S. Dollar	0,7910	0,7030
Sterling Pound	1,0952	1,1007
Deutsche Mark	0,4584	0,4607
Swiss Franc	0,5416	0,5443
French Franc	0,1323	0,1330
Japanese Yen*	0,7033	0,7048
Dutch Guilder	0.4090	0,4110
Swedish Krona		
Italian Lira*	90434	0.436
Belgian Franc		

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Figure Skating

Bonaly takes fifth gold

DORTMUND (AP) — Saving the best for last, Surya Bonaly made it five-for-five.

Bonaly, 21, produced a smooth and exciting performance to gain her fifth consecutive European women's figure skating title.

After falls and mistakes by

several of the top skaters, including by two Russian contenders and the German hope, it was Bonaly who brought the crowd alive. Her fifth straight title puts

-her within one of the all-time Enropean best shared by Katarina Witt and Sonja

Bonaly won her first title in 1991 and felt she has gotten better each year. "I've always learned a lot and tried to improve and

develop as a personality,"

Bonaly said. Bonaly had been trailing entering the final free prog-ramme, worth two-thirds of the final score. And she had been perhaps vulnerable to a challenge from Russian Olga Markova, the leader after the

short programme. But Bonaly was on top of things, starting with a difficult and rare triple Intz-triple toe loop combination that she attempted for the first time in

competition. Skating to lively gypsy music, she added five more triple jumps that earned her marks in the 5.7 to 5.9 range oo a scale of up to 6.0. Sbe had four 5.9 for pre-

sentation. "I have been working a lot on that because the judges always have considered it a fault of mine," said Bonaly, noted for being more or a jumper than an artist oo ice. Now Bonaly turns her attention to the world championships in March in Birmingham, England, last year she was favoured but came in second.

"I just want to go out there and skate my best," Bonaly said. "And not think of last

Markova had to settle for the silver medal after scaling down a couple of jumps from triples to doubles, while Elena Liashenko of Ukraine placed third, although she was merely fifth in the free skating.

"I am not satisfied with my performance," said Markova. "I desperately wanted to va. "I desperately wanted to win here. That's perhaps why I was so nervous." But the crowd loved the 21-year-old woman in red, skating gracefully to music from the musical "Miss Saigon," and gave her long applause. "On her lone ice, Tanja Szewczenka coollad her med.

Szewczenko spoiled her medal hopes - and the chanting crowd's high expectations — with two falls and a couple of

Irina Slutskaya of Russia nearly got a medal with the third best free skating of the afternoon, also producing seven triple jumps. Marina Kielmann of Ger-

many took sixth, 'jumping from 13th. The championships anded with Russian collecting five medals.

Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko gained Finland's first gold medal by capturing the ice dance event Friday.

Ferrari likely to dominate

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — At a track best known for the exploits of American-made stock cars,

That was the fourth overall victory for the Italian cars. But Ferrari, which has not run here in the top division of

the Rolex 24-bour race, the season-opener for the International Motor Sports Association and it's exxon Supreme

Series, since that 1972 victory, is likely to dominate this

version of America's most famous important endurance

prototype division, in favour of the world sports cars, which

were intended to promote competition and lower costs.

The Ferraris were not yet ready for competition and a slim and untried field of WSCS failed to make much of an

impact in the 24-bour race, succumbing to a variety of mechanical problems as a Nissan 300ZX GTS-class entry

became the first production-based car to win the race since

Since then, Ferrari has come aboard the series with a

Now, in their first 24-hour outing, four of the Ferrari

333SP world sports car entries will be at the front of what is

Last year, IMSA dropped its former showcase, the GT

Daytona's 24-hour race

Ferrari has had its moments of glory.

bang, dominating the WSC division.

expected to wind up a field of about 60 cars.



The Finns edges France's Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavancy in a narrow 5-4 majority of judges.

Earlier, young Ilya Kulik for Russian took the men's

event while Germans Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Stener took the pairs in surprise The 17-year-old Kniik held

off Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov as both produced superb free programmes.
Kulik barely missed two of nine triple jumps and Uramnov gained the only 6.0 of the competition with lyrical skating to Tchaikovsky.

Surya Bonaly: Saving

the best for last (AFP

Woetzel and Stener gave the home crowd a victory to more than make up for her stumble in the Olympics when she fell oo her chin and was carried off by Steuer.
The Germans beat Czechs

Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotny, with world cham-pions Yevgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov in third.

Gold-Ilya Kulik, Russia. Silver-Alexei Urmanov, Russia. Bronze-Vyacheslav Zagorodniuk, Ukraine.

Gold-Surya Bonaly, France. Silver-Olga Markova, Russia. Bronze-Elena Liashenko, Ukraine.

Gold-Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer, Germany Silver-Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotney, Czech Republic Bronze-Yevgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov,

Russia.

Gold-Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, Finland. Silver-Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy, France Bronze-Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov,

Cole strike turns up heat on Rovers

Cole's first goal for Manches-ter United put the champions within two points of Pre-miership leaders Blackburn on Saturday, as manager The last of those moments in the Daytona International Speedway spotlight came in 1972 when Mario Andretti and Jacky Ickx drove a Ferrari 312P sports car to victory in a six-hour race — the only time since 1996 that the event has been shorter than 24 hours. Alex Ferguson received a donble boost in his bid for a

LONDON (AFP) — Andy

third successive title. -After months of speculation about this imminent departure to Everton - intensified by the arrival of Cole last month - Welsh star Mark Hughes confirmed bis immediate future at Old Trafford by signing a new twoyear deal before the match. Six million pound striker Cole gave Ferguson a further

lift as United secured all three points with a 1-0 victory over Aston Villa. The victory turned up the heat on Kenny Dalglish's

men, who face a difficult trip to Tottenham on Sunday. Cole, whose left eye was badly swollen after an early clash with Bryan Small, broke his 11-match scoring

drought with a typically sharp

close-range finish. Cole said he was delighted that United had agreed a new two-year deal with Hughes, who will partner him when he completes bis recovery from

a knee injury. 'I came to United to play with the best players in the country," said Cole. "We're without Eric Cantona for the rest of the season, but I'm looksing forward to playing with Mark. He's a great player and I admire him and the

way he plays." Ferguson was disappointed by his side's overall performance but was happy that his British-record signing got on the scoresheet.

victory at Loftus Road with all the goals coming in the first 18 minutes. Les Ferdinand, again the

subject of transfer specula-tion this week, netted twice within eight minntes after being set up on each occasion, by his teenage striking partner Kevin Gallen. Simon Barker completed

the scoring against Kevin Keegan's side, who were short of eight players through 'flu', injury and suspension. Two of the league's most

promising strikes were on the mark at the City Ground, where Liverpool's Robbie goal drought by cancelling

BRITISH SOCCER

Cole pounced for his 16th goal of the season after 18 minutes when Ryan Giggs' corner was nodded down by Gary Pallister to end the three-game winning run of

Brian Little's improving side. Giggs later went off following a clash with John Fashanu who was carried off on a stretcher.

Meanwhile, Cole's former teammate suffered a thrashing at the hands of QPR, who stormed to a 3-0 out Stan Collymore's opener for Nottingham Forest.

Red cards were in evidence at Hillsborough, where Sheffield Wednesday advantage of Arsenal being reduced to nine men with a 3-1 win. Tony Adams, on his first

league start for two months, was given his marching orders for lashing out at Mark Bright while new sign-ing John Hartson was sent off for a challenge on Romanian Dan Petrescu.

Japan's Date wins Toray title

TOKYO (AP) — Kimiko Date, playing better and better as the tournament progressed, defeated a sloppy-serving American Lindsay Davenport on Sunday to become the first Japanese to win the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament. The fifth-seeded Date won

6-1, 6-2 in 52 minutes as Davenport served nine double faults. Date raised ber racket in

the air to acknowledge the cheers of the more than 7,400 spectators.

"I reached my peak on the final day," she said, alluding to her long, close matches in the first and second rounds.
"I wasn't able to get my
concentration and rhythm at the beginning but I regained them as the tournament proceeded."

Date, 24 years old and ranked No. 10 in the world, broke in the second game of the first set at love, jumped to a 3-0 lead and went on to take the first set on the artificial court at Tokyo Metropolitan Gym.

Davenport broke in the fourth game of the second set at love for a 2-2 tie, but Date rallied to win the next four games. Davenport hit a fore-hand long on match point.
"I didn't play well today.

My serve really let me down," said the 18-year-old American, ranked No. 6. Date earned \$148,500 and

increased her career earnings to \$1,092,094, the first Japanese tennis player to surpass the \$1 million barrier. Date is also the first Japanese to win this tournament, first

beld in 1984. Davenport took bome

Provis wins Amway Classic

In Auckland, New Zea-land, Australian wild card Nicole Bradtke rallied to defeat defending champion Ginger Helgeson Nielsen in three sets Sunday in the final of the \$107,500 Amway Classic women's tennis tourna-

Bradtke, 25, defeated the second-seeded American 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 in just under two hours to win her first title for two years.

The former French Open semifinalist used her accurate groundstrokes to keep Helgeson Nielsen on the run in many of their rallies.

The quality of her returns added to the pressure on her opponent, who failed to hold serve in the final two sets. Bradtke, formerly Nicole Provis, trailed by a set and a service break before before fighting back impressively.

"It's never over before the last point is won and I just tried to maintain that attitude," said Bradtke.

Bradtke, once ranked 24th in the world, earned \$17,000 for the third major title of her

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bruguera, Ivanisevic in Dubai Open

DUBAI (R) — Six of the world's top 20 players will be playing in the Dubai Open which starts on Monday with the top matches scheduled for evening because of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast during the day. Heading the field in the 1 million ATP-sanctioned tournament will be French Open champion Sergei Bruguera and Wimbledon finalist Goran Ivanisevic. Ivanisevic, seeded two, is paying his first visit to the Gulf Arab Emirae. Top seed Bruguera, who lost in last year's finals, will be making another attempt to capture the top prize of \$142,000. Last year's winner Magnus Gustaffson of Sweden is unable to defend his title because of an injury.

Brazillan player dies during match

BRUSSELS (AP) — A 23-year-old Brazilian soccer player died Saturday evening after suffering a heart attack during the Belgian second division match. Calmito Augusto of Boom FC collapsed 10 minutes into the second half of his team's match assist Gael. He was propounced dead team's match against Geel. He was pronounced dead shortly after arrival at Geel hospital, the Belgian news agency Bega reported. The referee halted the game, which boom FC was leading 3-0.

Work begins to modify Imola track

IMOLA (R) — Work to modify the Imola Formula One race track, where Brazilian Aryton Senna crashed to his death last year, began on Saturday after the Italian government approved a \$6 million rebuilding plan. Federico Bendinelli, of the Sagis Company which runs the circuit, said the San Marino Grand Prix would go ahead as scheduled on April 30 fear the environment ministry gave scheduled on April 30 after the environement ministry gave the plan the green light on Friday to modify the Tamburello, Villeneuve and Lower Variante Curves as they reconstruct some 50 per cent of the track to bring it into line with new safety standards.

Spartak Moscow wins Commonwealth Cup

MOSCOW (AP) - Dmitry Alenichev and Mukhsin Mukhamadiev scored three minutes apart early in the second half Saturday, sparking Spartak Moscow to a 5-1 victory over Dynamo Tbilisi and its third straight five-aside Commonwealth Cnp. With Spartak leading 1-0 on Nikolai's Pisarev's 13th-minute goal, Alenichev scored in 58th and Makhamadiev in the 61st to hike the lead to 3-0. The \$100,000 Commonwealth Cup was organized after the Soviet Union collapsed. All former Soviet republics took

Volker beats own backstroke record

PARIS (R) - Germany's Sandra Volker improved her own European short-course record for the women's 50 metres backstroke in the Parisian stage of the Swimming World Cup on Saturday, Volker, bronze medallist in the 100 metres backstroke at the European Championships in 1993, clocked 27.77 seconds, 0.09 seconds faster than her previous best, set in Hong Kong earlier this year. The record provided the only excitement of an otherwise lack-lustre meeting.

Haitian president causes stir at match

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - President Jean-Bertrand Aristide turned a tennis club into an armed camp Saturday when he showed up to watch Haiti's Davis Cup' doubles match against Canada. A half dozen military vehicles filled with U.S. soldiers in full battle gear rolled into the parking lot of Bailevue Club, where the three-day contest is under way. "This is our job, to make sure he gets here and gets back," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ed Davis, "We're trying to stay in the background." Aristide, dressed in a white sports shirt and grey slacks, greeted players of both teams. "To those who win, good luck," he said. "To: those who lose, good luck as well."

Nantes humbled by semi-pros

PARIS (AFP) - Nantes, France's unbeaten league leaders, were sensationally dumped out of the French Cup by the semi-professional team of St. Leu on Saturday night. St. Leu, a third division club based in a forest suburb northeast of Paris, held their mighty opponetns to a 1-1. home draw after extra time — and then won the penalty shoot-out 4-2. For Nantes, unbeaten in their 24 league matches this season and 10 points clear at the top of the. first divisions, it was their second cup disaster in less than two weeks. They previously went down 1-0 at home to Bastia in the League Cup.

Deportivo frustrated by 10-man Bilbao

LA CORUNA, Spain (R) — Deportivo Coruna were held to a frustrating 0-0 home draw Saturday by a stubborn Athletic Bilbao who played half the match with 10 men. Juan Goicoetxea was sent off for the visitors two mintues before halftime for a second bookable offence and although the Galicians pushed forward to droves late in the game, the well-disciplined Bilbao defence held firm. Deportivo's hest chance came four minutes from time. Javier Manjarin swung in a corner and Donato Da Silva's precise header was infiliantly tipped over the bar by goalkeeper Juan Valencia. Despite dropping a point, Deportivo remain second in the table, a point behind Real Madrid who play Sevilla on Sunday.

Former relay gold medalist Brown dies

CONEYHURST, England (AP) — Godfrey Brown, who anchored Britain's gold medal winning 1,600 metre relay team at the 1936 Olympics, died Saturday after a short illness, he was 79. Brown also won a silver medal in the 400 in the 1936 Games at Berlin's Olympie stadium, and two years later won the European title over the same distance. On the same day Brown won Olympic gold, his elder sister, Audrey, won a bronze medal for Britain in the women's 400 meter relay. Brown, a widower from Coneyhurst, is survived by one son and three daughters.

Spinal surgery for Sharpe

GREEN BAY (AFP) - Green Bay Packers wide receiver Sterling Sharpe is expected to spend the weekend in hospital after surgery to repair two vertebrae in his neck, the National Football League team said. Team doctor Patrick McKenzie said the operation went as planned, and Sharpe was resting comfortably. Sharpe, the Packers' career receptions leader with 595 catches, was injured in a game against Atlanta on December 18. He reinjured his necks the following week. He suffered tingling and weakness in Sharpe's arms and legs and forced him of miss Green Bay's two play-off games.

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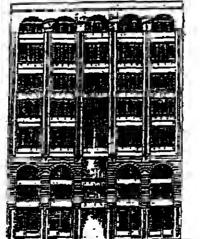
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Cavaliers win; Dee Brown ties Bird's record | Davis Cup

CLEVELAND (AP) — John Williams scored 19 points and Bobby Philis made a short bank shot to stop a Cleveland dry spell in the fourth quarter as the Cavaliers held off the Indiana Pacers 82-73 Saturday night.

The Cavaliers ended a

four-game losing streak, their worst of the season, and Indiana's three-game wioning streak.

It was the 10th time Cleveland has held an opponent under 80 points this year; the Cavs have won all 10. Indiana's 73 points were a season low for the Pacers. Phills scored 17, Danny

Ferry had 12 and Tyrone Hill collected 14 rebounds for the Cavs. Reggie Miller scored 19 and Derrick McKey 12 for Celtics 92, Nets 78: In East Rutherford, N.J. Dee Brown

tied Larry Bird's team record vith seven 3-pointers and scored a seasoo-high 31 points to lead the Bostoo Celtics to a victory over the injury-riddled New Jersey The Celtics hit 11 3-

pointers and got 17 points from Dominique Wilkins in winning for just the second time in nine games. Brown, taken out of Boston's starting lineup two

games ago, hit eight of his first nine shots and finished 10-for-18 from the field. Chris Morris had 20 points for the Nets, who played without Derrick Colemao and Kenny Anderson, both

out with injuries. Pistons 84, Hawks 78: In Auhurn Hills, Michigan, Grant Hill scored 22 points and Terry Mills added 18 points and 17 rebounds, leading the Detroit Pistons over the Atlanta Hawks.

Joe Dumars contributed 17 points on a night the Pistons retired the No. 40 jersey of his former teammate. Bill Laimbeer.

Atlanta was led by Mookie Blaylock's 16 points. Grant Long had 15. Ken Norman had 14 off the bench for the

Detroit made just 25 of 73 field goal attempts, including 3-for-19 shooting in the fourth quarter, but outscored the Hawks 26-11 at the free throw line.

Mavericks 119, Jazz 98: In Dallas, Jim Jackson and Jamal Mashburn went on a third quarter tear and the Dallas Mavericks snapped a 17-game losing streak to

Dallas hado't defeated the Jazz since Nov. 23, 1991. Utah lost its second straight on the road after a 15-game winning streak and played the second half without coach Jerry Sloan, who was ejected. Jackson had 30 points and Mashburn added 25 for the

Mavericks while Jason Kidd bad 16 points and nice assists. George McCloud came off the bench to score 22 points.

Popeye Jones and Lorenzo Williams had 15 rehuoods apiece for Dallas, which had ost nine of its previous 10. Karl Malone scored 22 points and had 10 rebounds



Stacey Augmon of the Atlanta Hawks tries to shoot over Derrick Coleman of the New Jersey Nets (AFP photo)

and John Stocktoo had 20 to lead the Jazz. Jeff Hornacek had 13 points.

San Antonio 97, Sacramento 96: In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 34 points and tied the game in the final minute as the San Antonio Spors defeated the Sac-

rameoto Kings.

With the victory, San
Antonio improved its winning streak to seven games. The Spurs grabbed a 94-93

lead on a basket by Robinsoo with two minutes remainbut Mitch Richmond made a 3-pointer - his first points of the fourth quarter to give the Kings a 96-94

Robinson followed with a dramatic dunk with 49.2 seconds remaining to tie it. Dennis Rodman, who had 22 rebounds for the Spurs, then hit one of two free throws with 35.4 seconds left to give the Spurs the win.

Alaa Abdelnaby led the Kings with 24 poiots, and Richmond added 19.

76ers 102, Bucks 96: 1n Milwaukee, Dana Barros scored 31 points, including 12 in the final period as the Philadelphia 76ers held off a

furious fourth-quarter charge to beat the Milwaukee Bucks.

Barros hit a breakaway basket, a momentum-killing 3-pointer and seven of eight free throws in the fourth quarter after the 76ers had blown most of their 22-point lead.

Reserve Jon Barry's 13 fourth-quarter points helped pull the Bucks, who had beaten Philadelphia three times this season, within four points oo two occasions after three periods.

Clarence Weatherspoon added 20 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia. Vin Baker, who had 16

points and 18 rebounds for Milwankee, and Glenn Robinson scored 22.

Lakers 121, Clippers 118: In Los Angeles, Eddie Jones scored 30 points and Anthony Peeler added a season-high 27 as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Clippers 121-118.

Nick Van Exel added 20 points for the Lakers. Malik Sealy led the Clippers with a career-bigh 34 points. Loy Vaught had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Tony Massenburg bad 20.

The Lakers played without starters Cedric Ceballos and Elden Campbell, and lost starting centre Vlade Divac in the second half.

Divac bruised his right thigh at the end of the first quarter. He returned in the second quarter to play nearly 17 minutes.

RESULTS

102

121

Indiana

Atlanta

Utah

New Jersey

Milwankee

Sacramento LA Clippers

Germany, Russia advance

LONDON (AP) — Germany and Russia secured places in the second round of the 1995 Davis Cup Saturday, while defending champion Sweden avoided elimination by winolog its doobles match against Denmark.

Sweden, after losing both singles matches on Friday, rallied behind Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman, who lost the first set before posting a 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Kenneth Carlsen and Morten Christensen.

Denmark, without a player ranked in the top 200, can still pull off the upset if either Carlseo beats two-time Wimbeldoo ehampioo Stefan Edberg or Frederik Fetterlein plays Bjorkman in Sunday's reverse singles on the indoor earpet at

Copenhagen.
The last defending champion natioo to lose in the first round was the United States, eliminated by Australia after winning the title in 1992.

Russia, last year's runner up, raced to an insurmonut-able 3-0 lead over Belgium at Antwerp, with Yevgeny Kafeloikov and Andrey Olhovskiy beating Lihor Pimek and Filip Dewulf 2,6,

7-5, 7-5, 6-3. At Karlsruhe, Germany Boris Becker and Michael Stich put aside their personal rivalry to give Germany a 3-0 ead over Croatia.

The two German stars, who have openly feuded off the court, proved too strong for Goran Ivanisevic and Sasa Hirszon in a 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 victory.

Croatia, making its World Group debut, had pinned its hopes of an upset against Germany on Ivanisevic, the left-hander whose powerful serve has carried him to the world No. 5 ranking.

Bot the Germans pounced on Ivanisevic's cannooball serve at key moments, breaking him at 5-4 to claim the first set.

Becker and Stich teamed up to win a gold medal in doubles at the 1992 Olympics, but Becker's appearance in Friday's singles was the first time he has played Davis Cup since Germany's 1992 win against Belgium. His reluctance to play has been th source of the latest feud with

"There's a lot of competition between the two of us no question," said Stich, who had threatened to quit Davis



Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman

Cup play if Becker tried to join the team after skipping the early rounds. "But we're just a good doubles team." Elsewhere, play finally got underway in Darban, South Africa, where Friday's singles

had to be postponed because a rain leak made a speciallyprepared court unplayable. On Saturday, it was crushing bumidity and a stomach virus that took their toll

on Australia as the teams split the opening singles. Wayne Ferreira, the world No. 11 singles player and anchor of the South African team, beat doubles ace Mark Woodforde in straight, hardfought sets, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5 and

Woodforde, half of the formidable "woodies" pair with Todd Woodbridge, was rushed into the match when Richard Fromberg fell ill with a stomach virus.

In the other match, Patrick Rafter, Australia's top sing-les planer, wilted in the humidity of the Indian Ocean city but still saw off Marcos Ondruska, 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in 2 hours, 49 minutes.

But the exhausted Rafter had to be treated for debydration afterward and it was unclear what kind of shape he would be in for a reverse singles match against

The doubles will be followed by the reverse singles. Elsewhere in the World Group, Italy took a 2-1 lead over the Czech Republic, as did Austria over Spain, the Netherlands over Switzerland and the United States over

On clay at Geneva, Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, the top doubles pair in the world, defeated Switzerland's

Jakob Hlasek and Lorenzo Manta 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. The Swiss pair had never played together before, even in practice. Manta, making his David Cup debut and ranked No. 458 in the world,

stepped in for Swiss No. 1 Marc Rosset, who broke his right foot in his match Friday and will be sidelined for up to three months. On hard court at Vienna. Thomas Muster and Alex

Antonitsch beat Spanish duo Sergi Broguera and Emilio Sanchez 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Bruguera, ranked No. 4 in the world, proved a weak partner for Sanchez, an exienced doubles player who has won many doubles

titles with correctly injured partner Sergio Casal. "Today we had two singles players and two doubles players on court," said Muster, also a singles specialist. "Alex player better than Sanchez, and I played better than Bruguera. So we won."

On clay at Naples, Italians Stefano Pescosolido and Cristian Brandi defeated Cyril Suk and Martin Damm 6-2,

1-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2). On the indoor carpet at St. Petersburg, Florida, Richey Reneberg and Jared Palmer rejoined a week after their .. Australian Open title victory for a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 win in doubles over Guy Forget and Oliver Delaitre.

The victory puts France on the defeosive with Gny Forget scheduled to play his third match in as many days Sunday to open the reverse singles against Todd Martin. Jun Courier, who trounced Forget in straight sets Friday, will face Pioline in Sunday's



Germany's Boris Becker

Hull has first NHL hat-trick of season

Hull recorded his first hattrick of the season and Denis Chasse added two goals and ar assist to lead the St. Louis Bines to their third straight wio, a 7-4 victory over the Dallas Stars Saturday. The hat-trick was the 22nd

of Hull's career. Kevin Hatcher had a goal and an assist for the Stars. In Boston, Jozef Stumpel's goal with 8:24 left in the game lifted the Boston Bruins to a 5-4 victory today

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

There's nothing we detest more in someone giving us a hand with "z" in place of a spot card. Had

hat been the case here, no one could

Eveo at this vulnerability, we

think South is too strong for a one-spade overcall. The right way to

NORTH

• Q 9 2

South Dbl

goal, his first of Stumpel's the season, finished a threeon-one attack on Hartford goalie Sean Burke. Boston's offence bombarded Burke with 53 shots.

including 22 in the final period. In Montreal, Mike Keane scored two goals and set up another and Patrick Roy made 32 saves to lead the Montreal Canadiens to a 4-2 victory over the New York

handle the hand is to double first, then show your suit. When North scraped up a raise, South went on to game.

West led a low diamond covered

by the jack and queen and ducked in the clused hand. The diamond con-tinuation was taken by the ace and a diamond was ruffed on the table

Despite our normal railing against simply taking a finesse, the winning

line now is to take not one, but two

finesses!
The ten of hearts was led from

dummy and, had East ducked, de-clarer would have ruo it in the hope

something good might happen However, East covered with the jack

However, East covered with the later and declarer's queen lost to the king. West shifted to a club to East's king and a trump was returned. Declarer woo in hand, entered dummy with queen of trumps and led the eight of hearts for a finesse against the nine. If East covered, declarer that is the new and the second the s

une nine. If Sask Covered, Genarier would win with the acc and the seven would be high. If East ducked, so would declarer and the eight would win. South's thoughtful play result.

ad in the loss of

GOREN BRIDGE

KEEP SHOVELLING

Islanders.
10 Washington, Calle Johansson's power-play goal with 6:29 remaining gave the Washington Capitals a 3-2 victory over Florida Panth-

lo Sahres.

Cleveland

Philadelphia

San Antonio

LA Lakers

Detroit

Boston

Dallas

In Philadelphia, Brent Fedyk, Garry Galley and Eric Lindros scored second period goals as the Philadelphia Flyers ended a three-game winless streak with a 4-2 win over the Buffa-

Galley and Fedyk both scored on the power play in the second period before Lindros extended the Flyers lead to 4-1 with only a second left in the period.

In Winnipeg, Todd Elik's secood goal of the game with 6:35 left in the third period lifted the San Jose Sharks into a 3-3 tie with the Wio-

nipeg Jets.
The Sharks extended their. unbeaten streak to six games but had their five-game winning streak halted.

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Media performance

AMMAN (Petra) - Information Minister Khalid Al Karaki said Sunday the gov-

ernment was committed to

undertaking a comprehensive review of the official media

performance. Commenting

on a remark by member of

the Lower House of Parlia-

ment Ahmad Al Kofahi, the

minister said: "We have

actually stopped many prog-

rammes and commercial

advertisements failing to conform with the Jordanian state

media, its values and morales

which both the Constitution and National Charter have

enhanced." The minister said

his ministry was reviewing all

programmes and administra-

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Palestiniang Affairs Department at the

Foreign Ministry Asem Ghosheh on Sunday received

a delegation representing.

chambers of commerce in

Ramaliah, Bethlehem and Jericho, headed by Assad

Hassonneh. Mr. Ghosheh re-viewed with the delegation

issues pertaining to facilitat-

ing the travel and movement of Palestinian citizens to Jor-

dan and enhancing bilateral

relations. Mr. Ghosheh said

Jordan was ready to provide

every possible support for the Palestinians in the occupied

territories and promised to

follow up on some issues of

concern to them, including

passports and certification of

MARJAYOUN (AP) — A bomb explosion Sunday kil-

led a 10-year-old boy and his

teenage sister and wounded

five others in an Israeli-occu-

pied border enclave in South

Lehanon, security sources

said. The bomb exploded at 12:30 p.m. (1030 GMT) out-

side a mosque on the mains

street of Houla, a village ab

out three kilometres from the

Israeli border. The boy.

Wadih Abbond, and 6-year-

old sister Rose Abboad, were

killed, said the sources.

leader beheaded

Algerian party

Blast kills

2 In S. Lebanon

Ghosheh meets

W. Bank team

tive regulations.

under review

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey offers to sell water to Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Turkey has proposed to sell Israel 60 million cubic metres of drinking water a year to solve shortages, officials said Sunday. However, Water Commissioner Gideon Tzur said the price of \$1.2 a cubic metre. including sea transport, was three times what Israel wanted to pay. The amount proposed would cover 10 per cent of national domestic consumption in Israel today. Mr. Tzur was to visit Turkey later this month to try to negotiate a deal.

israel introduces new 10 shekel coln

TEL AVIV (AP) - The Bank of Israel announced Sunday that a new 10-shekel coin would go into circulation this week. The step came after annual inflation surged to 14.5 per cent last year, nearely twice the government's target for 1994. Shmuel Bilitsky, head of the hank's currency department, said the 10 shekel (\$3.3) coin will replace bills that cost the same to print hut have a shorter life span. One side of the coin shows a date tree with the inscription "Liberation of Zion," the other is engraved with the word Israel in Hehrew, Arabic and English and shows a cluster of dates. Bank of Israel said that the 10-shekel coin was the first to be made of two different coloured metals.

Two Israelis die in old minefield

TEL AVIV (AP) -- Two Israelis died this weekend when they strayed into an old minefield near the Red Sea resort of Eilat, police said Sunday. The two Eilat residents drove a jeep into a fenced-off area near kibbutz Elot and triggered an old mine, Israel radios and police added.
Warning signs were prominently placed outside the area and it was not clear why the two men entered the minefield,

Mauritanian opposition leader freed

NOUAKCHOTT (R) - Mauritania's main opposition leader, arrested last month on charges of fomenting bread riots, returned to his home in the capital on Sunday after being freed from detention in the interior of the country. Ahmad Ould Daddah, leader of the main opposition Union of Democratic Forces, told Reuters be had been held in Tichitt, 700 kilometres from the capital, Mr. Ould Daddah, half-hrother of the former French colony's first president, Moktar Ould Daddah, was the last of eight opposition activists detained after the riots to return home. Hamdi Ould Mouknass, head of the Union for the Progress of Democracy, returned home on Friday and six other opposition millitants from the two groups have been freed, party and family sources said.

Detainees still have sex with their wives

CAIRO (AFP) - Dozens of Islamic militants jailed in Egypt have had regular sex with their wives during prison visits and fathered children, ignoring an official han, the Egyptian weekly Rose Al Yussef reported Sunday. During the weekly visits by relatives "the man sleeps with his wife while his cellmates hide them with hlankets," the magazine said. Under Egyptian law male or female prisoners are forbidden to have sex with their partners. Prison department chief Nahil Seyam denied that such activities were allowed after his appointment last summer. But Rose Al Yussef said one militant, Assem Abdul Maged, sentenced to hard labour for life for involvement in the assassination of former President Anwar Sadat in October 1981, was a bachelor when he entered prison hut a few years later got married in jail and became a father.

Iraqi team leaves Egypt without deal

CAIRO (AFP) — The first Iraqi delegation to visit Egypt since the 1991 Gulf war left here without food and medicine contracts but secured promises of future economic cooperation, an Arah diplomat said Sunday. The diplomat said the trade delegation left Saturday after a week-long visit which went unreported in Egypt. Baghdad hroke ties with Egypt which took part in the U.S.-led offensive to drive Iraq from Kuwait in January-February 1991. The Egyptian-Iraqi talks produced "a joint understanding calling for stronger hilateral economic cooperation in future, especially after the lifting of the embargo" imposed after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he said. "No agreement however was concluded on supplying Egyptian food and medicine to Baghdad," the diplomat added.

Sudan denies bombing Ugandan border areas

KHARTOUM (R) - Sudan on Sunday denied charges by neighbouring Uganda that it bombed Ugandan territory as part of a campaign to crush rebels from southern Sudan who have taken refuge there. State-owned Radio Omdurman said Omar Yousef Barido, the first under-secretary of foreign affairs, summoned Uganda's charge d'affaires and told him the Sudanese army had clear instructions not to bomh inside Uganda. Mr. Barido said the bombing charges were part of a media campaign against Sudan. Uganda last week officially complained to Sudan over the alleged bomhings. Sudan's amhassador to the Ugandan capital Kampala, Einayet Mohammad, said Thursday he could not rule out the possibility that the Sudanese air force had bombed border areas and might do so again in its war against the rebels.

Iran has 500,000 drug addicts

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has 500,000 drug addicts among its population of around 60 million, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said Sunday. Mr. Besharati told the daily Kayhan that there had been a sharp drop in the number of addicts since the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the Shah. There were "two million addicts in Iran in the year before the revolution, although the population was only 37 million at the time," he said. Iran is a major transit route for drugs, mainly opium, from Afghanistan and Pakistan destined for Europe and North America. Some of the drugs are synthesised into heroin and morphine before they are exported. The authorities here, however, have waged a merciless war against drug trafficking in the past five years, sealing off borders and handing down stiff punishments to smngglers.

Egyptian mufti bans poor from smoking

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt's mufti, the country's highest Sunni Muslim authority, has declared it "unlawful" for poor people to smoke if they cannot afford to feed their families, newspapers reported Sunday. "I do not want to impose a total ban on tohacco use, but it is unlawful if the smoker is poor and cannot manage to feed his family," said Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, qoted by Al Akhbar daily. "Smoking is not desirable from the religious viewpoint, but it is tolerated if the smoker is well-off, or if he cannot concentrate on his work without tobacco. However, it would be better if you gave np cigarettes," the mufti told Egyptians. A packet of Egypt-made cigarettes costs 1.5 Egyptian pounds (\$0.45), while imported foreign cigarettes cost four pounds (\$1.2) a packet.

Saudi prince gives \$7 million to charity

DUBAI (R) - Saudi Arabian husinessman Prince Al Waleed Ben Talai Ben Abdul Aziz, who owns nearly 25 per cent of Euro Disney SCA, gave away 29 million riyals (\$7.7 million) to 185 charities, his bank said on Sunday. A detailed list by United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) sent to Reuters said the prince's Ramadan donations this year were nine million riyals (\$2.4 million) more than the

Brown begins **Mideast** mission

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown opened a Middle East tour on Sunday, pledging to encourage economic development in the region to further prospects for peace.

Mr. Brown also said, after talks with President Hosni Mubarak, that his visit to Cairo was intended to express American appreciation for the Egyptian leader's role in the Mideast peace process.

"We will be doing everything we can to focus on regional economic development, how it can have a positive impact on the lives of the people in the entire region," Mr. Brown said in outlining the purpose of his

Mr. Brown will make stops in Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Kuwait, the United Arah Emirates and Qatar hefore leaving for

Washington on Friday.
On Wednesday, he will join in a meeting of trade officials from the Palestinian territories, Israel, Jordan and Egypt in the Egyptian resort of Taha, near the Israeli bor-

Asked if he would address Arah fears that the U.S.hacked peace process would wind up with Israel dominating the region's economy, Mr. Brown said we would try to allay "the fears of all of the parties" taking part in peace negotiations.

Mr. Brown's original schedule did not include a stop in Cairo, and he said the visit was added to deliver a letter from President Bill Clinton congratulating Mr. Muharak on the success of last week's summit of Israeli and Arah

"We wanted to express the appreciation of the United States for the leadership role that President Muharak has taken in creating a sense of momentum in the peace process," he said.

He said the letter from Mr. Clinton congratulated the Egyptian president for last Thursday's meeting. Mr. Brown referred to "the extraordinary leadership and courage" that Mr. Mubarak showed in the peace process.

Last week's summit meeting in Cairo was the first time that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met together with the Arah leaders who reached peace accords with Israel - Mr. Muharak, King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Syria criticises summit

Syria said Sunday only Israel gained from the summit.

"The Cairo meeting gave nothing to the Arabs and Israel ohtained what it wanted without yielding anything," said the official daily Al Thawra.

The government newspaper Tishreen said Israel was "the sole beneficiary" from the meeting and "nothing positive came out of it concerning Jewish colonisation, the closure (of the Palestinian territories). Jerusalem or nuclear weapons."

"Israel's position has not changed. On the contrary, Israel has become more arrogant since the meeting and stepped up settlement expansion on the West Bank."

Tishreen said Mr. Rabin's call for the Palestinian self-rule authority to wipe out "terrorists" meant "in his language, the Palestinian uprising and Palestinian patriotic forces fighting to end the occupation and col-

The mouthpiece of Syria's ruling party, Al Baath, said Israel had scored a point at the Cairo summit, which was "an attempt to suggest that a new axis has been born. Syrian-Israeli peace talks are stalled over the scope and timetable of a planned Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized in the 1967

Middle East war. The official daily Syria Times also attacked Mr. Arafat who it said pledged to help stop anti-Israeli resistance while Mr. Rabin did not hudge from his "tough poli-

"Rabin made no concessions to Arab demands for a complete halt to Jewish settlement activities in occupied territories, neither did he make a clear commitment to speed up delayed Palestinian elections and the freeing of Palestinian detainees," the English-language paper said.



Khaleq (above), who conveyed to the King a Al Qassem (Petra photo)

IRAQ1 MESSAGE: His Majesty King Hussein message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Sunday received at the Royal Court Iraqi dealing with bilateral relations. The meeting Minister of Higher Education Hamman Abdul was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwar.

Artillery, bombs strengthen Russian grip south of Grozny

STARY ATAGI, Russia (Agencies) - Russian forces moved to strengthen their control of the area south of Grozny on Sunday, bombing and shelling roads leading to the Chechen capital.

The Russian fire-power made it hazardous for Chechen fighters or civilians to approach a Russian armoured force sitting astride a strategic crossroads.

The intersection controls one of the last two roads from southern Chechenya, still controlled by the separatist rebels, into Grozny.

The road, leading past the town of Stary Atagi, was punctuated by columns of smoke as artillery boomed out a steady rhythm. Russian snipers were also taking shots at traffic down the road.

The other southern access road to Grozny was bombed hy a Russian aircraft on Sunday near where Chechen rebels had assembled on Saturday in defence against any Russian assault. However, Chechen guerril-

las said nobody was hurt in Sunday's attack.

The roads south of Grozny were heavily trafficked by refugees moving out of villages in the way of the southward Russian move following the capture of the crossroads last

Friday. About a third of Grozny remains in Chechen independence fighters' hands, but the area has been destroyed by Russian bombardments and is almost described.

Russian snipers were also firing Sunday at an intersection of a road leading to where a Russian Sukhoi-27 jet was shot down hy the Chechen rebels on Saturday.

The aircraft lay scattered across a 100-metre radius of snow-covered field about 16 kilometres sontheast of

Grozny. Delembyek Timiyev, one of the band of rebels in the area which claimed to have shot down the aircraft, quoted the pilot's last words as "I have a house and a son.

The soldiers said they shot down the plane with a beavy anti-aircraft gun that shoots rapid rounds of explosive bul-

'The pilot ejected, but his parachute didn't open. He was still alive when he hit the ground, his legs were smashed and he was missing

his arms," Tuniyev, 27, said. Moscow has confirmed losing the Suhkoi-27.

Meanwhile, Chechen fighters said they were planning a night attack on the crossroad captured by the Russians on Friday.

They said they were waiting for weapons supplies, including a battery of Grad multiple rockets.

A Russian government statement said the Chechens were still putting up "fierce resistance" in parts of Grozny to give the forces of rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev time to set up defence lines elsewhere in the ruined city. It also said Russian forces

killed 350 Chechen fighters and captured 10 armoured vehicles on Saturday. Similar claims have proved exaggerated in the past.
The Russian forces made

loudspeaker announcements calling on Chechen fighters in the southwest of the city to lay down their arms, saying the army would otherwise not be responsible for the consequences.

But the rebels vowed to fight on despite being laugely outguaned and ontunm-

'Arafat complains that foes havemore arms

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestine Li-beration Organisation (PLO) Chief Yasser Arafat complained during the Cairo summit that militants have more guns than his Palesti-nian National Authority (PNA), a senior Israeli offi-cial said Sunday.

They have more weapons than I do," Mr. Arafat reportedly told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday

evening.
"If Hamas is stronger than you and has more weapons perhaps you are not our part-ner," Mr. Rabin retorted, according to the official. The tense exchange came

amid Mr. Rabin's demands that the self-rule regime crack down on hardliners spearheading an armed struggle against Israeli occupation. Mr. Arafat reportedly ac-cused Israelis of "selling weapons to Hamas" and

offered to give addresses.

Mr. Rabin took np the offer, the official said, but Mr. Arafat failed to deliver. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein then intervened speaking to Mr. Arafat in Arabie, which Mr. Rabin interpreted as a bid to change the tone.

.The Israeli premier nonetheless went on to charge Mr. Arafat with failing to take real measures against the militants.

The official said Mr. Rabin compared the 200 suspects Israel arrested after the Jan. 22 suicide bombing which killed 21 with seven Islamic Jihad members arrested by Palestinian police, .

"We have arrested others in the past, but they were acquitted," Mr. Arafat re-

Mr. Rabin added accusations that some had been acquitted on other offences after intimidating a judge.

According to the official Mr. Mubarak also pointed out to Mr. Arafat that Egypt had jailed people trying to smuggle explosives to Gaza for 25 years.

meetings and in the media.

some detainees although re-

ports of such incidents con-

Kuwait strongly denies

abuse of foreigners or de-

tainees. It says its human

rights record is far superior to

those of most of its neigh-bours, especially Iraq, which

Kuwait says holds 600

Kuwaitis detained during the

occupation, a charge Iraq de-

The report said the plight of 117,000 Arabs of undeter-

mined nationality with long residency in Kuwait "remains

a significant human rights

ahuse," women suffered legal

and social discrimination and

some Asian maids were

Kuwait denies widespread

So-called stateless Arabs

say they have no official pap-

ers stating nationality, a

handicap in a country where

citizenship confers welfare

benefits, and do not have the

abused by employers.

abuse of Asian maids.

inued to decline, it said.

There were credible re-

ALGIERS (AFP) — A leader of Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN), Ahmad Kasmi, has been beheaded, security services said Sunday. Kasmi, a member of the central committee of the the government at public FLN — formerly Algeria's sole political party — was abducted Tuesday — Only ports that security officials hlindfolded, slapped and hit his head was recovered Thursday in a railway station at Khemis-Miliana west of Algiers, the evening daily Horizons quoted security services as saying.

Jrag reports rickets, stunted growth.

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraq on Sunday said cases of rickcts and stunted growth had appeared among children because of severe milk shortages due to United Nations sanctions, the official news agency INA reported. "The economic hlockade imposed on Iraq has caused a severe milk shortage which threatens the lives of chil-dren," a trade ministry spokesman told the agency. He said Iraq imported \$300 million worth of milk annually for children before sanctions were imposed in 1990. and that the country now lacked 40 per cent of its needs. "The proportion of underweight newborn babies is high compared to before the blockade," he added.

Iran rejects U.S. charges

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has angrily rejected U.S. accusations of human rights viola-tions, accusing Washington of pursuing "illegitimate" political zims. Foreign Minis-try spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi hit back saying the United States "School the United States "violates the rights of other nations and pursues inhumane anti-Islamic policies in various ways." The issue of human rights is a ploy used by Washington to carry forward its illegitimate aims," he told the official Islamic republic news agency IRNA. It its annual report on Wednesday. the U.S. State Department accused the Iranian government of being a "major abuser" of human rights. "Systematic abuses include arbity" rary arrests and detentions, widespread use of torture, lack of fair trials, summary executions and repressions of freedom of speech, press and association," the report said.

Kuwait curbs rights of stateless, women judiciary and the evidence citizens were free to criticise

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait improved prison conditions and expanded the franchise in 1994 hut still curbed the rights of stateless people and women including foreign maids, a U.S. State Department report issued by the

embassy on Sunday said. The trial of 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis on charges of trying to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush did not meet international standards, the annual human rights survey added.

"The government made some progress on human rights, and it has emerged from the troubled human rights environment of the post-liberation period." the report said. But it added:

"The government continues to ahridge or restrict a number of significant rights. Limitations on the freedoms of assembly and association and women's rights remain in

"The government continued its policy of preventing the return of stateless, Iraqi and Palestinian people who have strong family ties to Kuwait." it said, referring to groups that fled or were ex-

CAIRO (R) — Veiled wives and the children of detained

Egyptian doctors protested

on Sunday at police raids on

their apartments last month

to arrest their menfolk.

against whom detention

orders have been renewed for

At a news conference orga-

nised by the doctors' union,

controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood — Egypt's

largest Islamic opposition

group - the women said

police had raided their homes

shortly after midnight in

January, terrifying them and

ers raided our flat while we

were sleeping. They searched

every corner and terrified my

children," said the wife of

Ibrahim Al Za'afarni, secret-

ary-general of the Alexandria

Doctors's Union who is

"Why do they arrest peo-

among those arrested.

"More than 17 police offic-

two weeks.

their families.

pelled after the 1991 Gulf Kuwait has come under

fire at times on human rights issues since the Gulf war, in particular for alleged extrajudicial killings after Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

A 1991 State Department report alleged that after liberation in February 1991. Kuwaitis committed more than 300 killings as they pursued foreigners suspected of

collaborating.
The 1994 report said the government had not published the results of its investigations into the deaths and has given no indication as yet that it intended to take furth-

Kuwait says any killings that took place happened in regrettable but understandable conditions of post-war chaos. Officials say incidents subsided after Kuwaiti leaders returned from exile and reasserted control in May

The report said the trial of Iraqis and Kuwaitis on charges of trying to kill Mr. Bush on a visit to Kuwait in 1993 "did not meet internationally accepted standards regarding an independent

serving their commnity?"

Her 11-year-old son Ismail de-

manded: "Are they arresting

my father because he teaches

people prayers at the mosque...? Please answer my

The union news conference

was to protest at the con-

tinued detention of eight col-

leagues charged with belong-

ing to an illegal organisation.

members of the Brotherhood

arrested by police last month

under the same charge. Pro-

secutors renewed their im-

prisonment on Thursday for

"The arrest of union mem-

bers is a slap in the face of

Egypt's doctors who have

elected them. They were

arrested despite their moder-

ate position and services to

the community," nnion mem-ber Dr. Abdul Fattah Rizk

two more weeks.

The eight were among 28

she asked.

question."

required for proving abuse." It gave no details. Previous State Department reports have said defence

lawyers alleged that defendants were coerced to confess. Kowaiti anthorities deny A stae security court in June 1994 sentenced five Iragis and one Kuwaiti to death, acquitted one Kuwaiti and

sentenced five Iraqis and two Kuwaitis to prison terms for offences ranging from pos-session of explosives to illegal The death sentences are subject to automatic appeal. The survey said the government had improved condi-

tions in overcrowded prisons and detention centres, extended the all-male franchise to the sons of naturalised citizens and invited the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to Kuwait for consultations on labour issues. Parliament's human rights

committee continued to probe human rights ahuses and had urged improvements in prison conditions.

There were no reports of political or extrajudicial killings or disappearances and

"There is a struggle be-

tween two trends. One which

wants to impose Western,

Zionist domination and

another (the Brotherhood)

which wants to restore this

Dr. Rizk, a spokesman for

more than 250 doctors who

organised a sit-in at the un-

ion's downtown headquarters

to protest at the arrests, de-

nied his colleagues had

He confirmed they were

memhers of the Brother-

hood, hut said they were pur-

suing their goals with demo-

Dr. Rizk ridiculed the

charges against the Brother-

hood members, saying some

were accused of possessing

books written hy Brother-

bood figures, available in

President Hosni Mubarak's

government is clamping

down on militant groups who

violated the law,

cratic means.

bookshops.

nation's dignity and unity,'

he added.

Veiled voices protest Egypt raids, detentions

right to work.

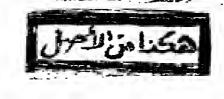
ernment and establish a strict Islamie state. Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) has led the campaign since 1992, and more than 650 people have been killed in violence since.

want to overthrow the gov-

The Muslim Brotherhood was established in 1928 by a school teacher named Hassan Al Banna. President Gamal Abdul Nasser imprisoned hundreds of Brotherhood members in 1954 after a dispute, and sentenced several of their leaders to death.

Mr. Mnbarak tolerated the group's activities and its control of several professional unions but it was never allowed an independent political party, denying the mem-

bers a legal status. After the escalation of political violence, the government accused the Brotherhood of sympathising with



ple who look for nothing but told the news conference.